EPISODE #73
October 15, 1992

The Valley COMIC NEWS

STORIES:
FAMILY FEUD
MISC. & MATCH
HE'S B-A-A-A-C-K
SHOPPING AT THE (GENDER) GAP
AND THE BEAT GOES ON...
BEYOND POLITIX

INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY, CALVIN & HOBBES, VIEWS OF THE WORLD, JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*, THIS MODERN WORLD, TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, EARTHWEEK, LOCAL HEROES

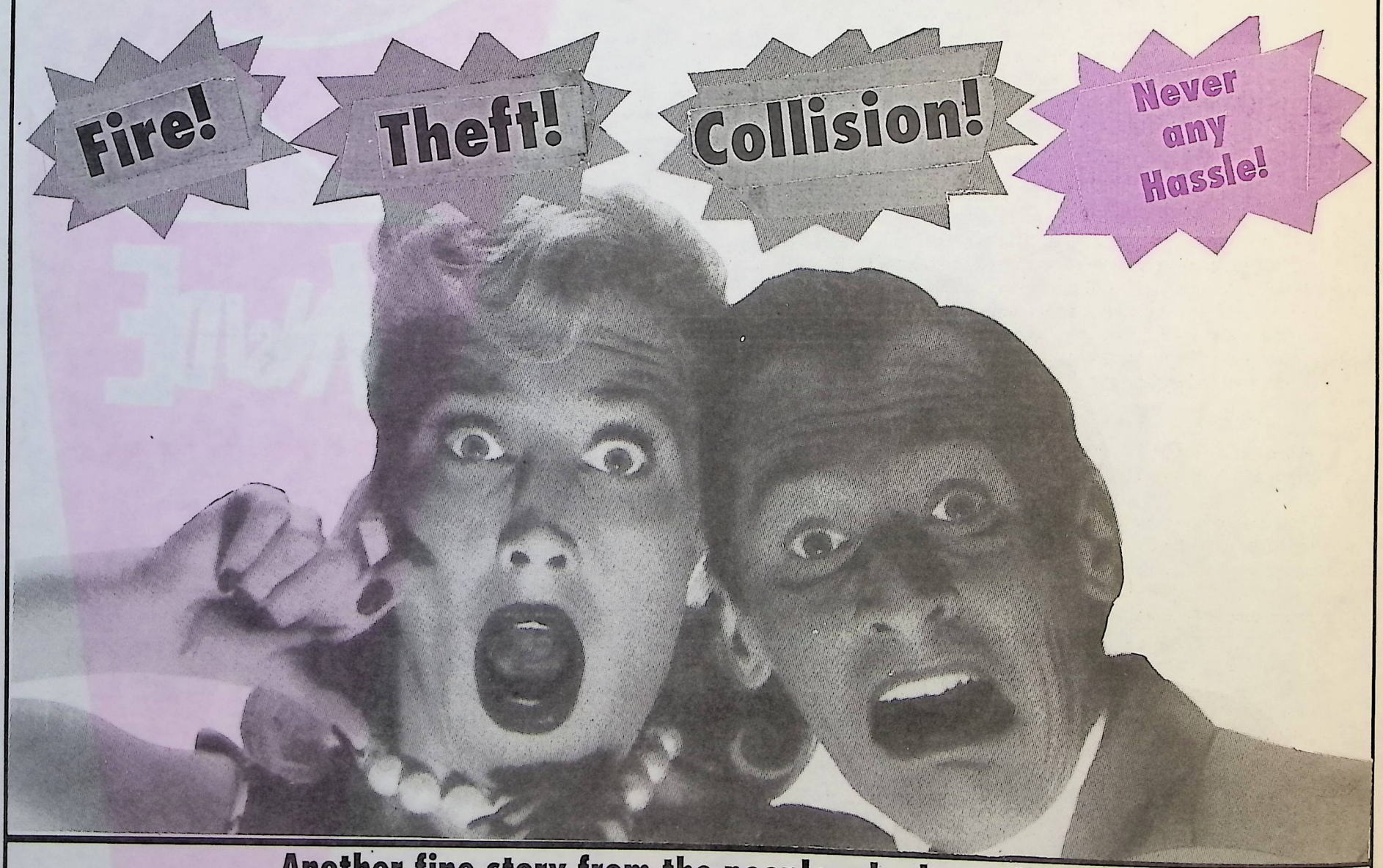
FREE · FREE · FREE · FREE

TALES TOO TERRIBLE TO TELL!!!

I HAD NO INSURANCE

It's HAIRY, It's SCARY...

A story of people too cheap to buy good insurance and the benevolent agent who saves them in the nick of time.



Another fine story from the people who brought you "It Came From The Registry," and "Smoke Damaged Apartment."

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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

(Mike Chrisman is on vacation this week. In place of his column we are running our favorite sports column: *Ambulating* Magazine's "Dr. Walker on Walking.")

Dear Dr. Walker,

I'm a beginner to this sport. Is it OK to walk without a Walkman?

Ans: Certainly. As a novice you'll need all your concentration to learn the steps. Once you've mastered the basics, you'll find walking with a Walkman is a breeze.

Dear Dr. W.:

I know this sounds crazy, but I *can* walk and chew gum at the same time. Should I?

Ans: Negative. Walking is exercise for your legs and heart, not your jaws. For more on proper jaw exercise, see my column in the November issue of *Talking*.

Dear Doc Walk:

To make a long story short, my girl friend says she's sick of me always lying on the couch and watching TV. I told her if she didn't like it she could take a hike. She did, but now I'm worried about her. Do you think she'll be back?

Ans: You *should* be worried. Hiking is *much* more strenuous than walking, and should never be attempted without supervision. I certainly hope your girl friend has taken some introductory hiking lessons, or that she went with a companion. Hikers frequently find themselves in remote areas called "woods," where they are required to perform several advanced technical maneuvers, notably "jumping" and "wading." Hikers' heart rates can be elevated far beyond what yours would be on a typical Sunday afternoon, and their breath rates increase as well (cf. my column in *Breathing*, July '91). I have no idea whether she will return to you if she survives her hike, but under no circumstances should someone in your condition hike after her.

Dear Dr. Walkmeister,

I'm in law school at an Ivy League University. I asked one of my professors this question and she said I should ask you: You know all those songs with "walk" in the title? "Walk on By," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "The Walk of Life...." How can they use the word "walk" like that without acknowledging its trademark? Isn't it a copyright infringement? I'd think a clever lawyer could sue these companies for a bundle.

Ans: I agree with you fully, and am puzzled why this issue has not reached the courts. Coincidentally, a similar case against the film "Stand and Deliver" was recently decided in favor of the complainant. The movie is now available in video as "Maintain An Upright Posture And Deliver" (I wrote a column on the case in the April '92 *Standing*).

Dear Dr.,

Whenever a baseball player gets a base on balls, commonly known as a "walk," they never actually *walk* to first base. It's more of a trot. What gives?

Ans: In the early days of baseball, players in fact *did* walk to first base. It was a more leisurely era; sometimes they'd even call time out and drink a glass of lemonade. What else did they have to do? There was no TV! Now it's a different ball game (ha ha). Although Little League players and softball players *will* occasionally walk to first, the big leaguers trot, or even *jog* there. They do this so the game will proceed at a more rapid pace, and they will have more time to get home and count their money.

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AND THE BEAT GOES ON ... AND ON ... AND ON ... AND ON ... AND

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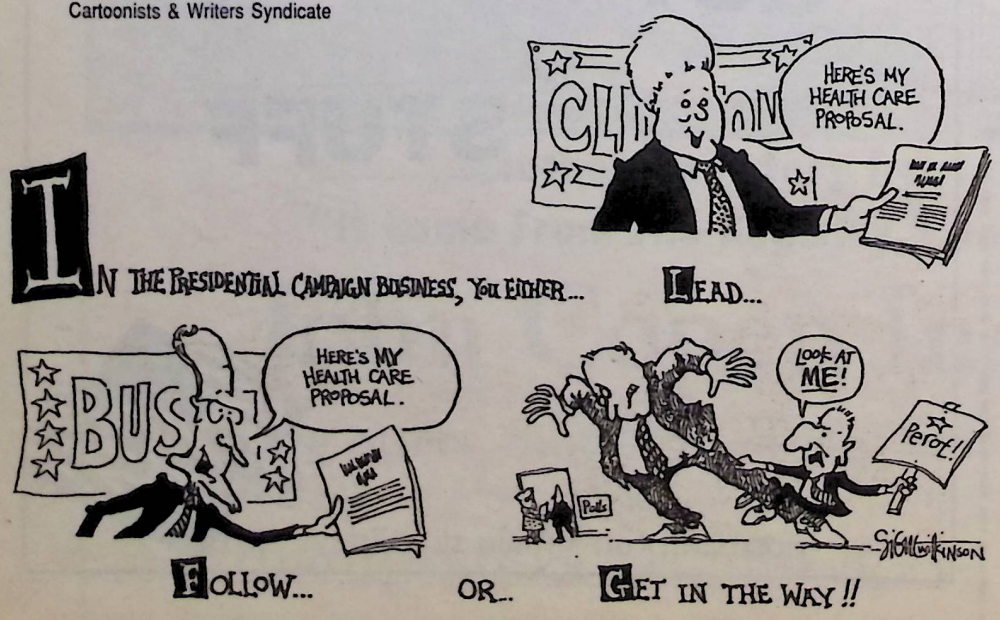
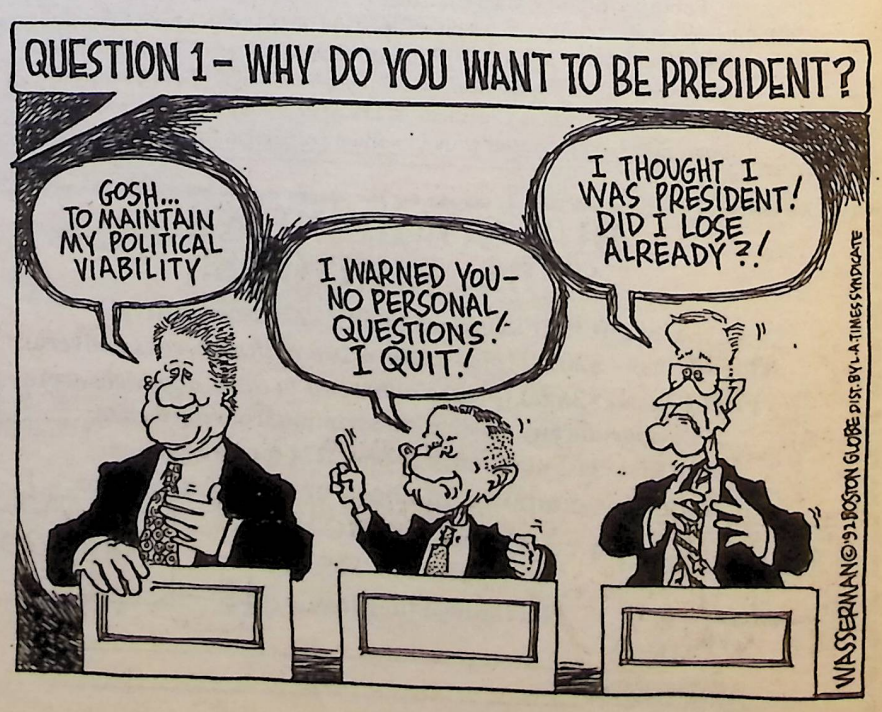
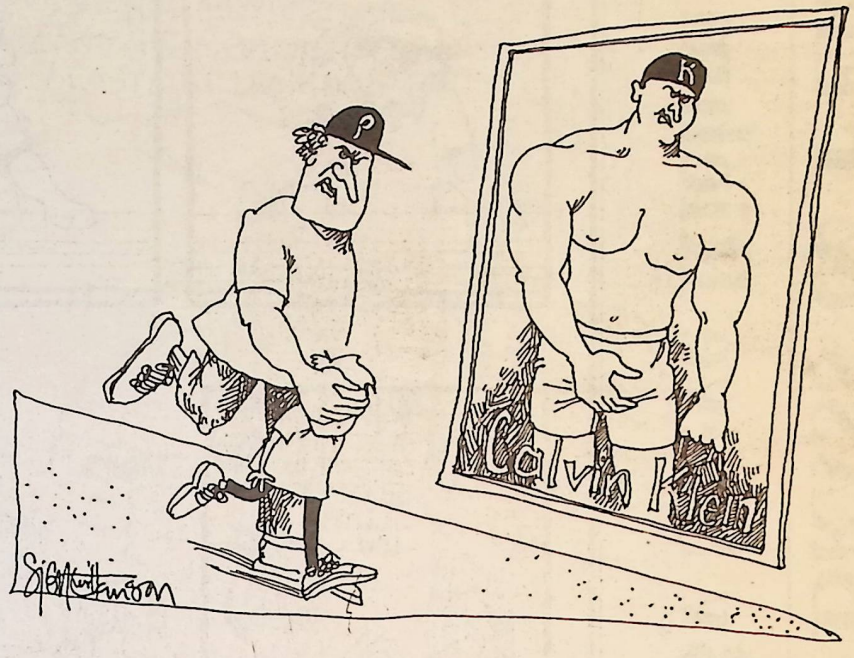




"FATHER, FORGIVE SINEAD O'CONNOR, SHE KNOWS NOT WHAT SHE DOES."



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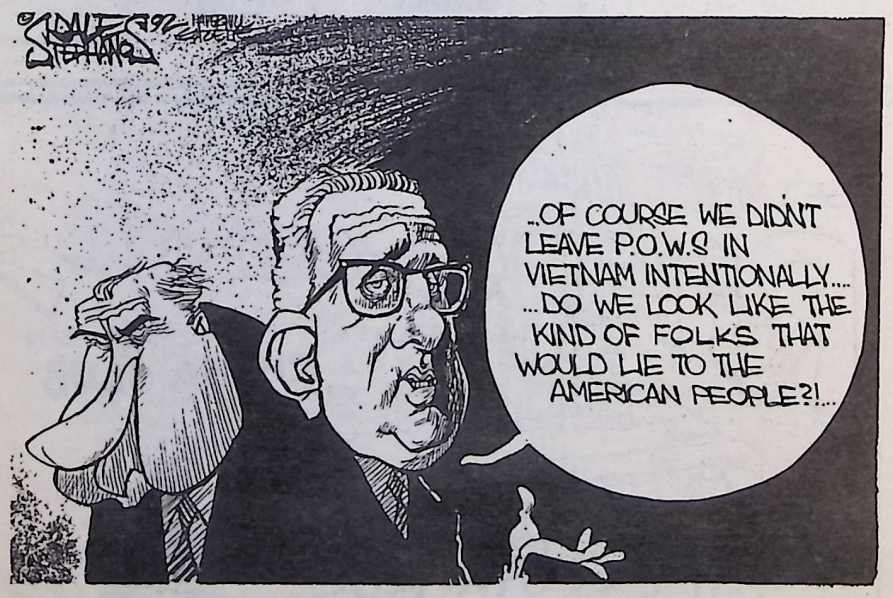
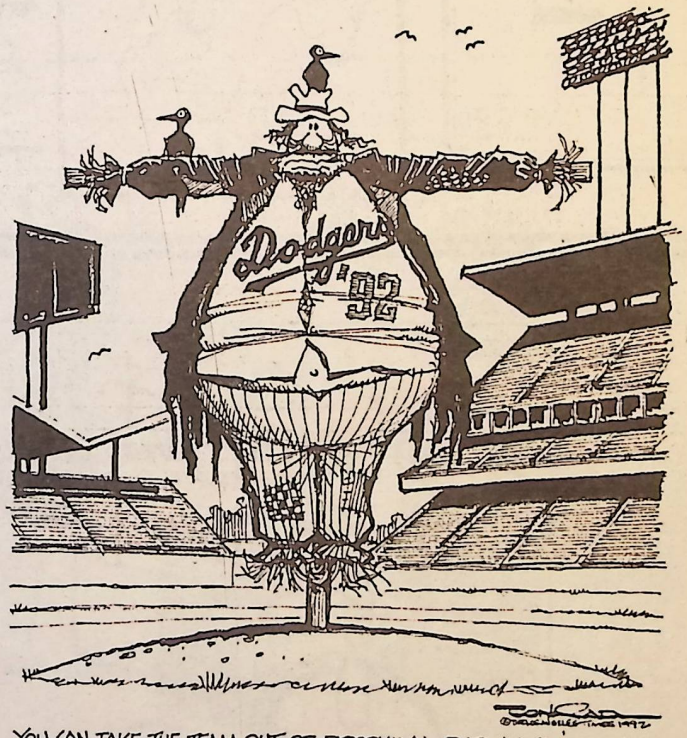
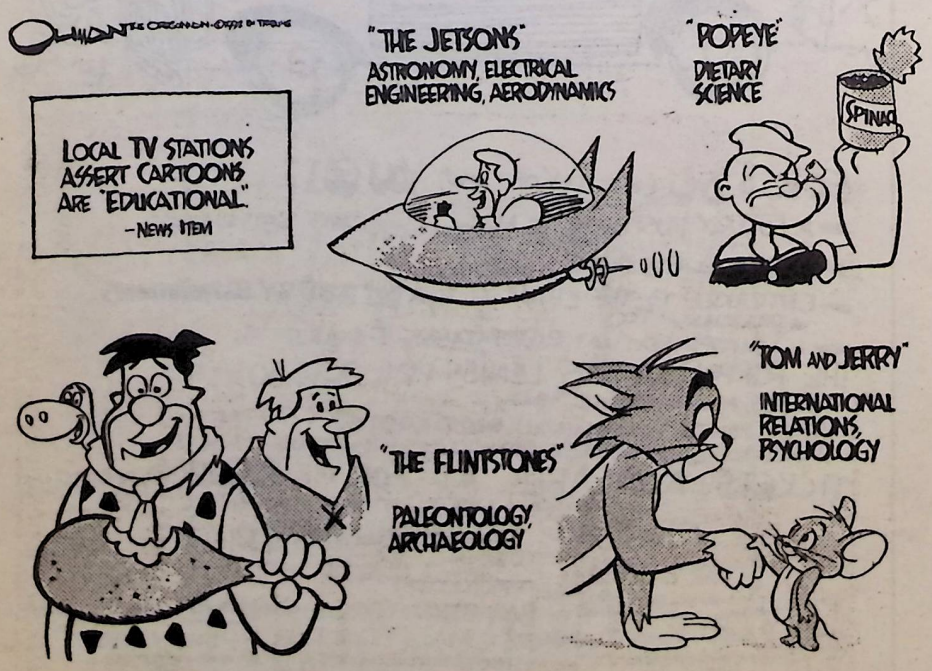
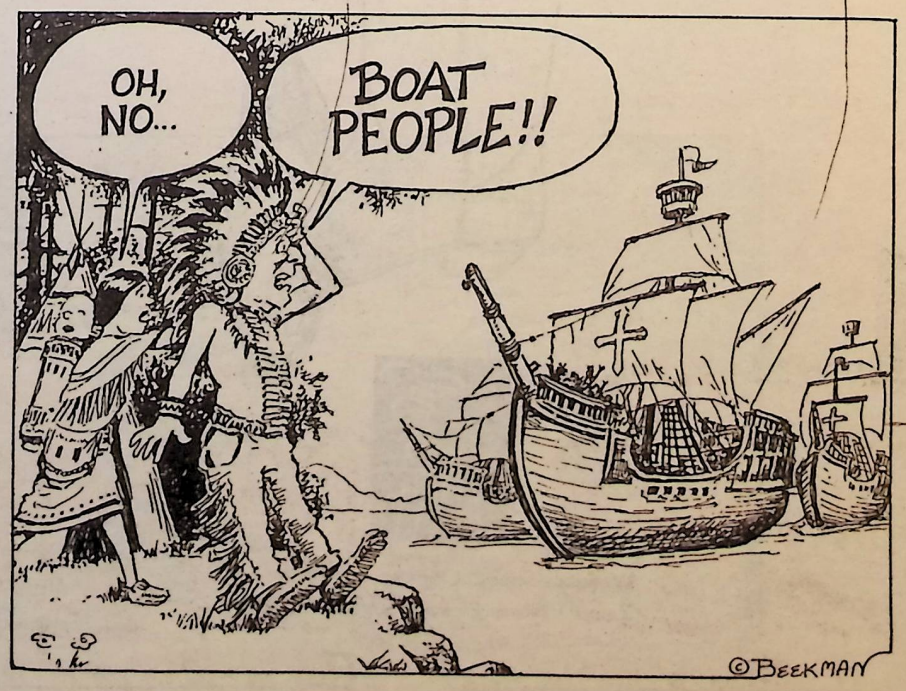


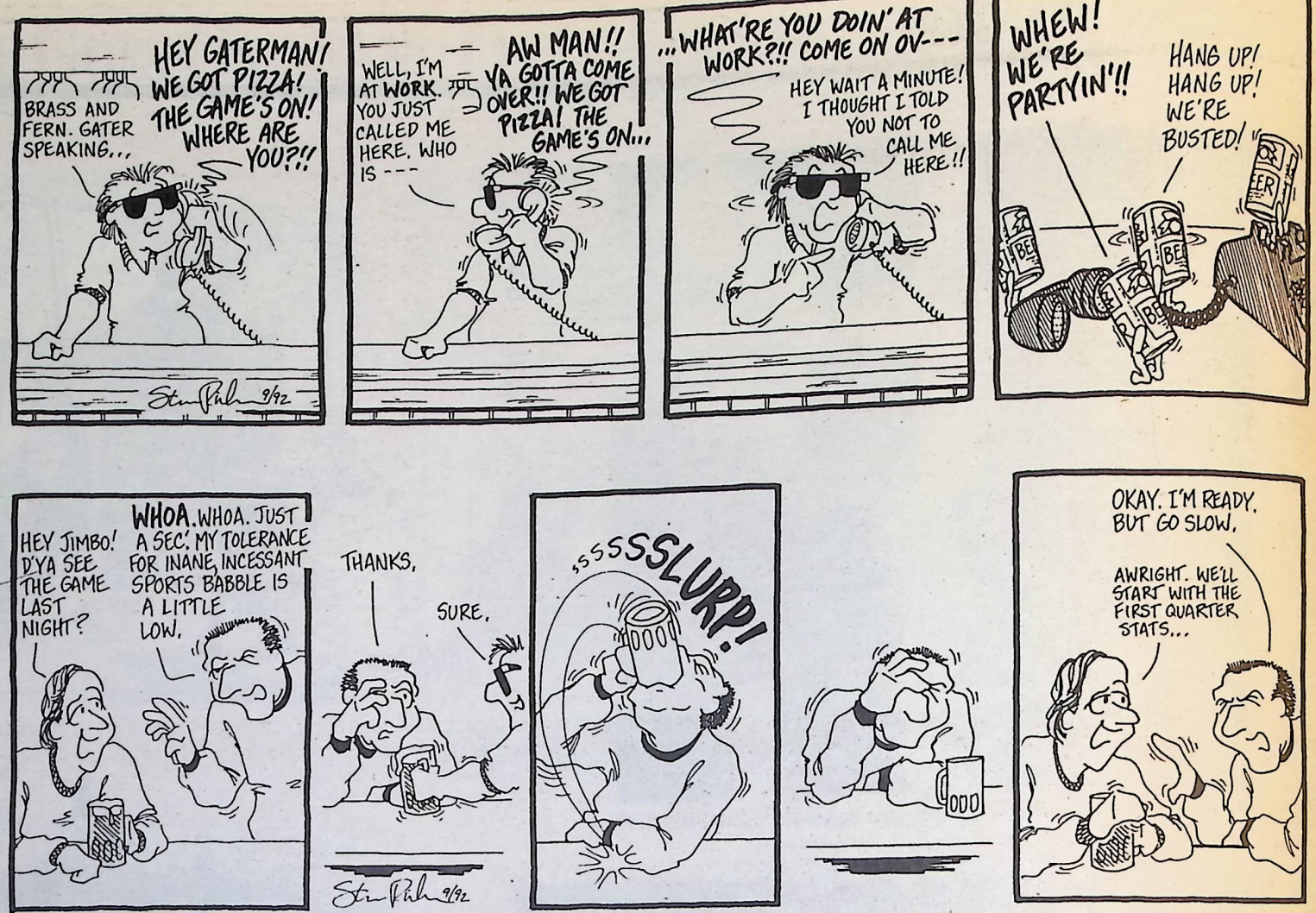


YOU CAN TAKE THE TEAM OUT OF BROOKLYN, BUT YOU CANT TAKE BROOKLYN OUT OF THE TEAM.

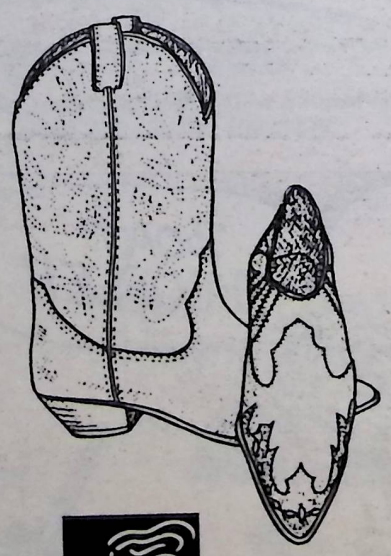




THE BRASS & FERN
By Steve Riehm



"I got mine at Zanna!"



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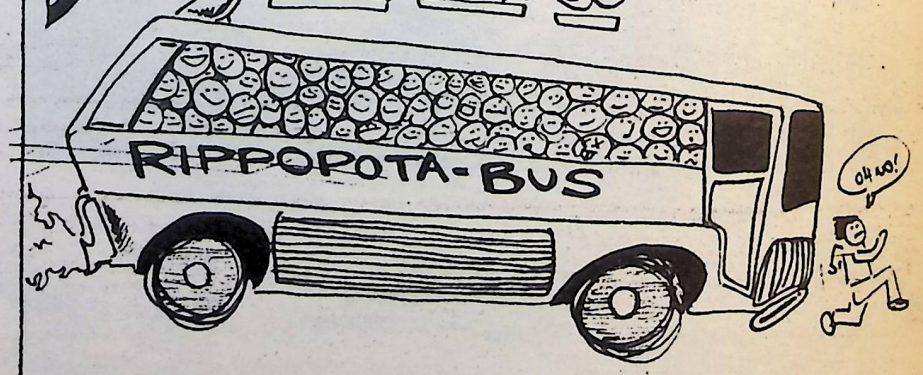
FRI. OCT. 30



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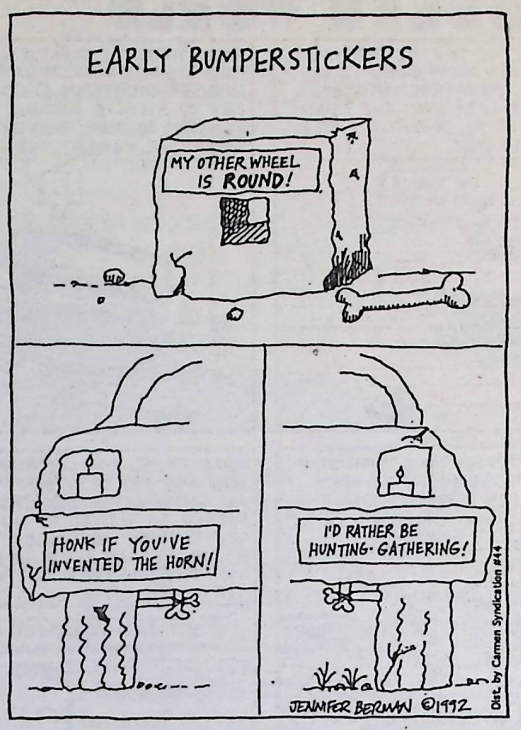
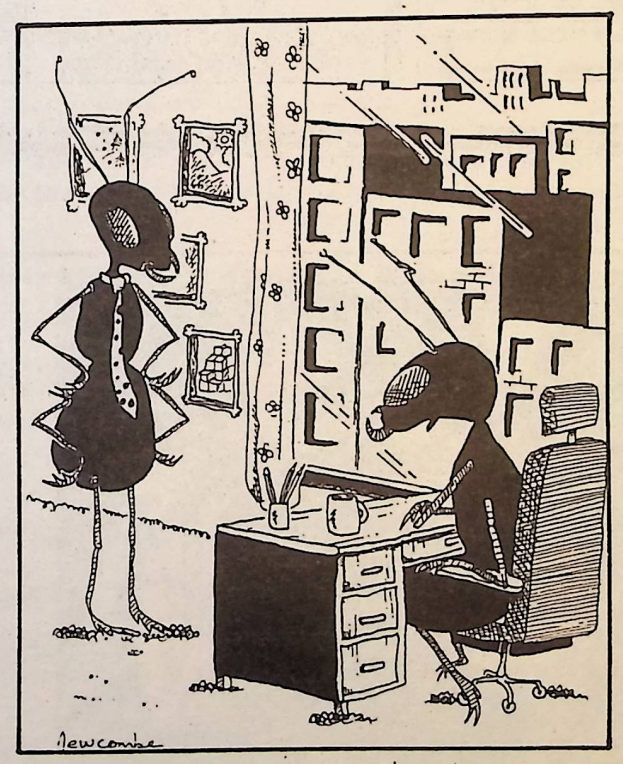
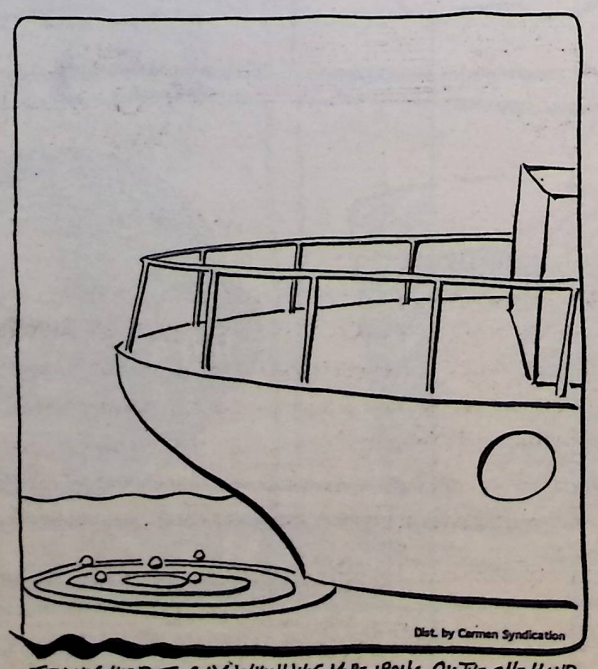


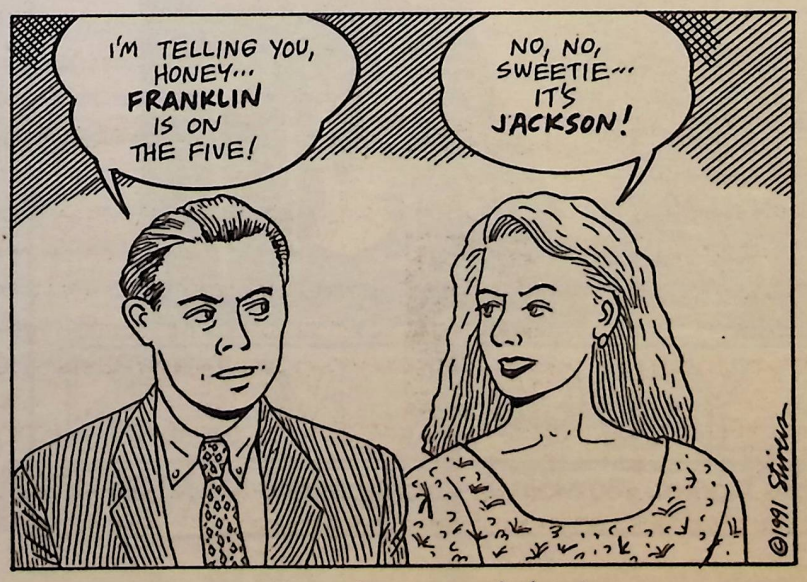


Brickers, I've decided to let you go because.... well, frankly, you're just not pulling 10 times your own weight around here.



IT WAS HARD TO SAY WHICH WAS MORE IRONIC. ON THE ONE HAND THE SWIMMER HAD BEEN DEVOURED BY MANATEES AND DOLPHINS, TWO OF THE OCEAN'S GENTLEST CREATURES. ON THE OTHER HAND HE HAD CALLED HIMSELF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESIDENT.

WORDS AND CONCEPT BY BILL MONTGOMERY ©1992 Andrew Lehman



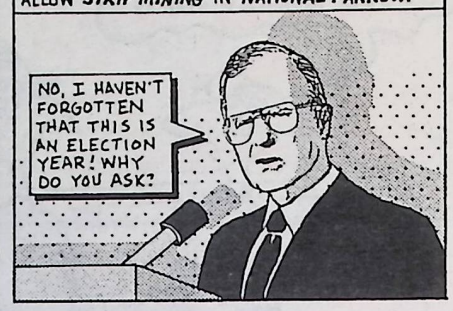
Steve and Fran often argued about money.

THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

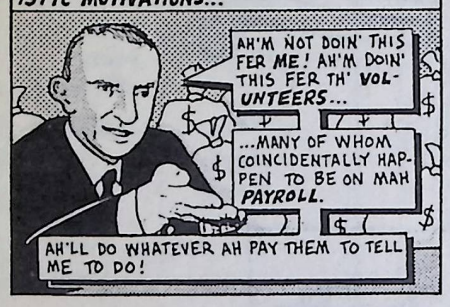
THIS MODERN WORLD

SOME WEEKS, REAL LIFE GETS SO STRANGE THAT SATIRICAL CARTOONS JUST SEEM ***UNNECESSARY***... FOR INSTANCE, DESPITE OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC WOES, NASA JUST LAUNCHED A $980 MILLION ROCKET TO ***MARS***...AND PLANS TO SPEND $2.1 ***BILLION*** ON A SPACE STATION WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE NO REAL ***PURPOSE***...

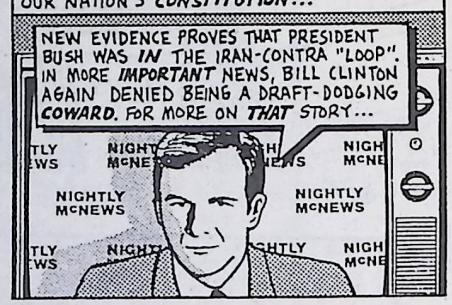
...EQUALLY BIZARRE WAS THE "FAMILY VALUES" PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE ***FAMILY LEAVE BILL***... NOT TO MENTION THE DECISION OF THE "ENVIRONMENTAL" PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATION TO ALLOW ***STRIP MINING*** IN ***NATIONAL PARKS***...



...IN OTHER PECULIAR NEWS, EGOCENTRIC BILLIONAIRE ***H. ROSS PEROT*** REAPPEARED ON THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE...ONCE AGAIN PROCLAIMING, RATHER UNCONVINCINGLY, HIS ***SELFLESS, ALTRUISTIC MOTIVATIONS***...



...AND FINALLY, CONSIDER THE PRESS ITSELF... WHICH CONTINUES TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON BILL CLINTON'S AVOIDANCE OF AN EVIL WAR THAN ON GEORGE BUSH'S ROLE IN SUBVERTING OUR NATION'S ***CONSTITUTION***...



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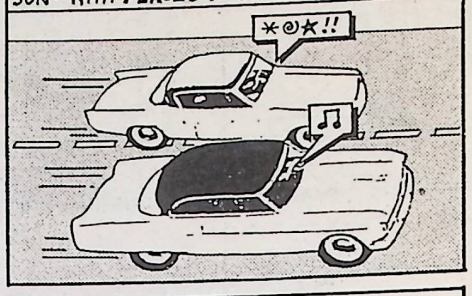
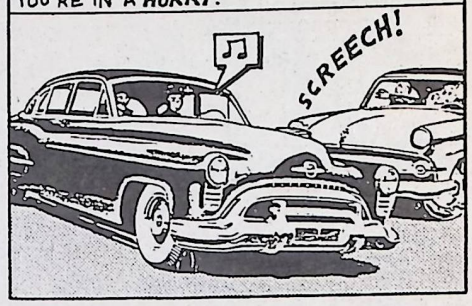
THIS MODERN WORLD

IT'S TOM TOMORROW'S GUIDE TO ***CITY DRIVING!*** ***RULE ONE:*** NEVER, EVER SLOW DOWN TO LET THE DRIVER NEXT TO YOU MERGE INTO YOUR LANE! DO THEY THINK THEY OWN THE ROAD? LET THEM WAIT! YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PERSON--WITH ***PLACES TO BE!***



RULE TWO: THE FIRST FIVE SECONDS OF A RED LIGHT ***DON'T COUNT***--SO ***KEEP DRIVING!*** BE COURTEOUS, THOUGH, AND AT LEAST ***TRY*** TO SWERVE AROUND THOSE PEDESTRIANS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO STEP INTO THE CROSSWALK THE MOMENT THE LIGHT CHANGES...

RULE THREE: AT INTERSECTIONS WITH STOP SIGNS, FORGET ALL THOSE RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES YOU LEARNED IN DRIVER'S ED--AND JUST ***GO!*** YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! YOU'RE IN A ***HURRY!***



RULE FOUR: FINALLY, ALWAYS REMEMBER--***YOU*** ARE THE ONLY PERSON THAT MATTERS! ALL THOSE OTHER DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS NOTHING MORE THAN ***IRRITATING OBSTACLES!*** SO TURN UP YOUR RADIO ***REALLY LOUD*** AND KEEP REPEATING THE ***MANTRA*** OF THE SOLIPSISTIC ***CITY DRIVER***...

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. Who coined the term "Third World"?
A. Charles de Gaulle. He meant countries neutral in the Cold War. Later, it came to mean undeveloped countries.

•

It's the tall people who are most uncomfortable in wheelchairs, says a hospital psychologist. "They're not used to being looked down on."

•

The word "pet" originally referred to an orphaned lamb.

•

Seven out of 10 new hats in this country are of the baseball variety.

•

Some of your capillaries are so small your blood cells move through them in single file.

•

Q. What's that place where it's illegal for a woman to undress in front of a photograph of a man?
A. That was once the law in Oxford, Ohio. It was a sorry law, no doubt, but not as sorry as as the ordinance in Halethorpe, Md., which made it illegal to hold a kiss longer than one second.

•

Should you be called on to list all the animals that secrete foul-smelling fluids in self-defense, don't forget mud turtles.

•

Historians will tell you the cafeteria showed up on the American scene about the same time as the assembly line, in the 1890s.

•

The University of Alaska, in all its branches, is in four time zones.

•

Many a mouse sweats to death when the weather stays hot too long.

•

Q. What's the loudest noise ever?
A. Make that the loudest in recorded history: The volcanic explosion of Krakatoa near Java in 1883 was heard at least 2,760 miles westward on the Indian Ocean's Rodriguez Island. Or if not the loudest, certainly the noise heard farthest away.

•

You're about 10 times as likely to shoot a golf hole-in-one as to bowl a perfect 300 game.

•

Explorers set up a real pole at the South Pole. It has to be relocated every year because the ice crust shifts.

•

What we call "Indian Summer" around here is known in Warsaw and thereabouts as "God's Gift to Poland."

•

Not even every "Jennifer" knows her name spun off from "Guinevere."

•

An examination of California death certificates reveals that women who die of "natural causes" are slightly more likely to do so during the week after their birthdays than during any other week of the year, and are least likely to do so during the week just before those birthdays.

•

Q. Settle it! As far as the threat of divorce goes, which is the most dangerous year of marriage? The seventh? Or the first?
A. The seventh is the national median year: half the divorces happen after that, half before. But the year in which most breakups occur is still the first.

•

Iowa law prohibits possession of a rotten egg.

•

According to one Dr. Ann Squire, cats can't taste sweets. She's the authority who said cats tend to be left-pawed.

•

A lot of people don't know that Denver gets more days of sunshine annually — 300-plus — than either Miami or San Diego.

•

No candidate as yet has promised a pizza in front of every TV. Odd. Food promises are traditional in political campaigns. The "chicken in every pot" promise. Mao Tse-tung's "pig for every family" promise. But no pizza promise, so far.

•

Hopscotch was once a religious game; the final square was Heaven.

•

W.A. Sheaffer did not make the first fountain pen. But in 1912 he did make the first levered one that didn't have to be filled with a medicine dropper.

•

Ticks shed their shells, like crabs do.

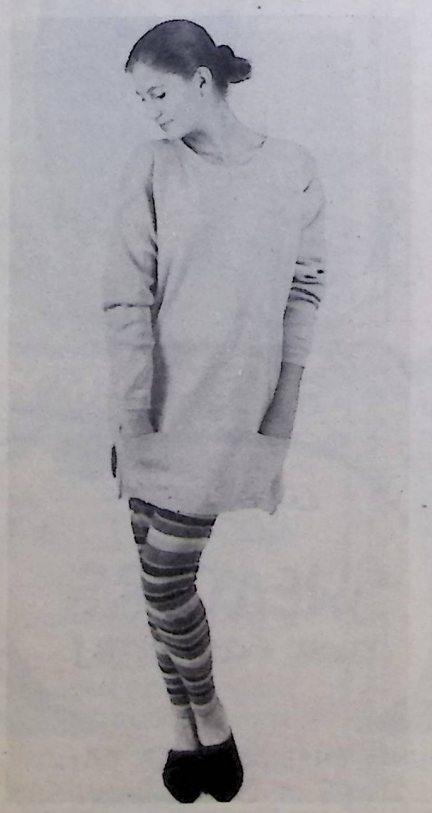
•

Clearly, the old Romans were interested in both words and wine. They had 11 words for drunkenness.

•

If you're like most Americans, a fourth of all the vegetables you eat in a year is potatoes. French fries and potato chips top the popularity list.

•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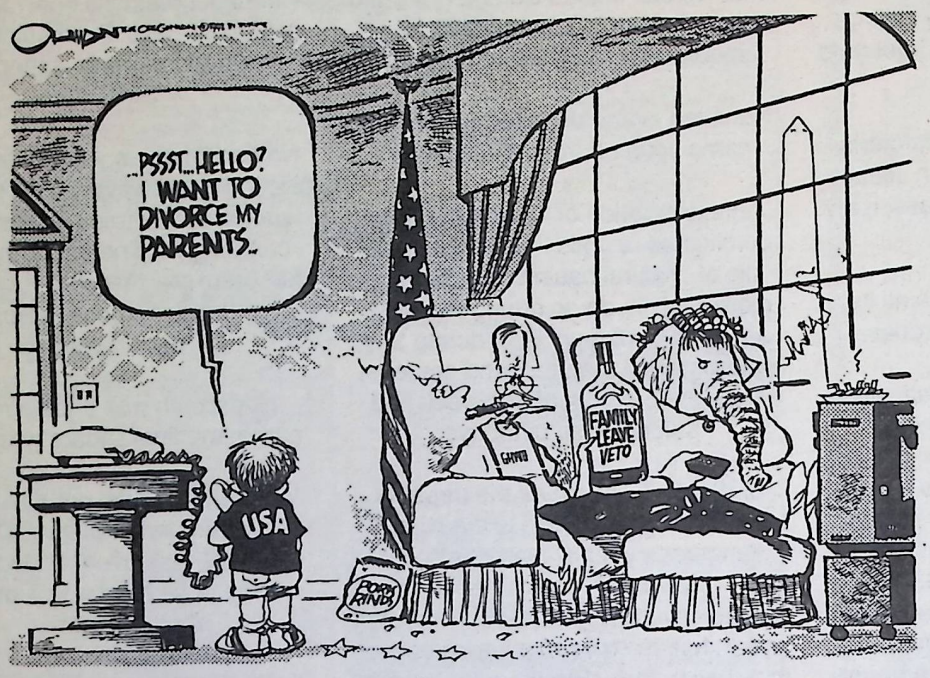
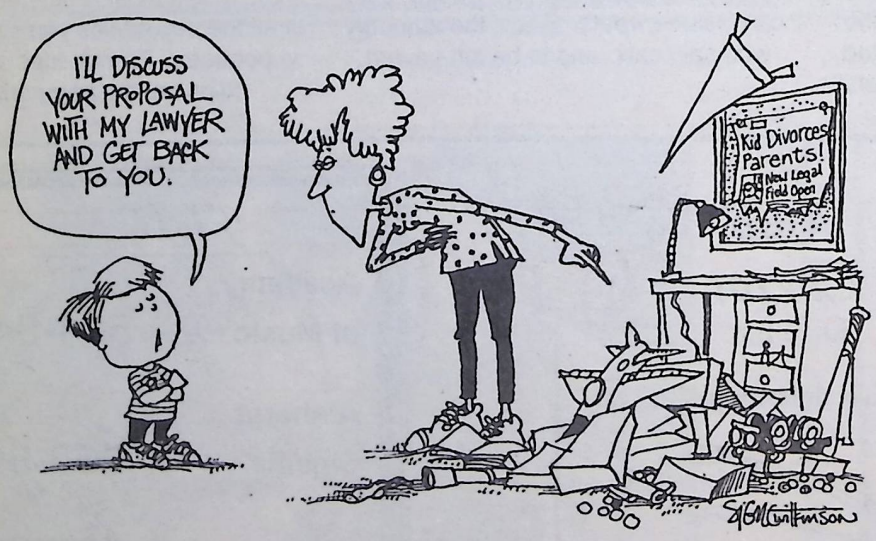
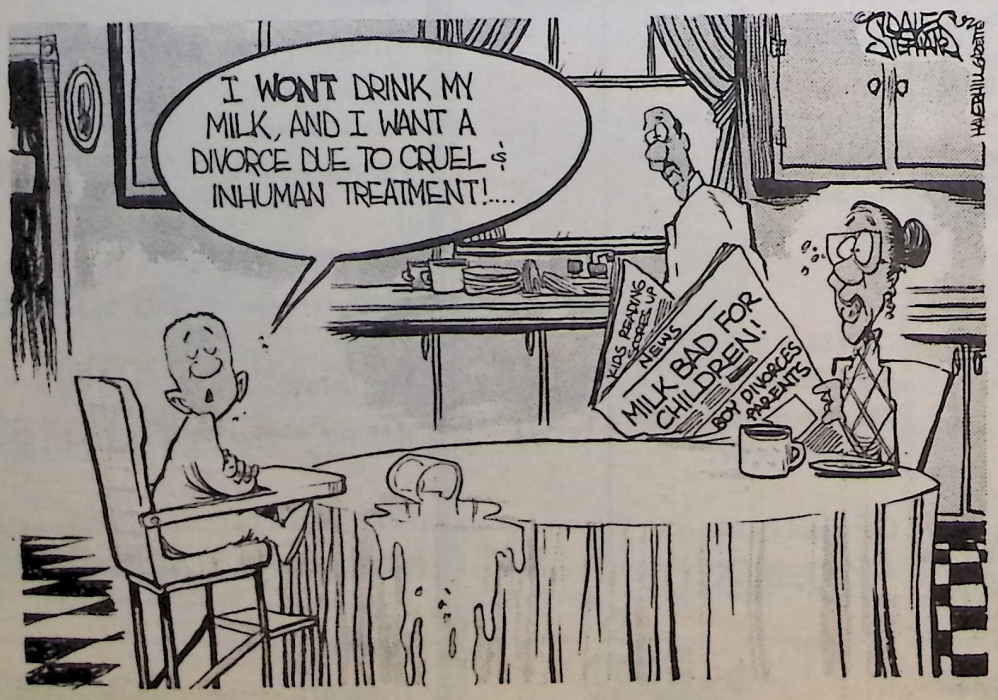
FAMILY FEUD





Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate



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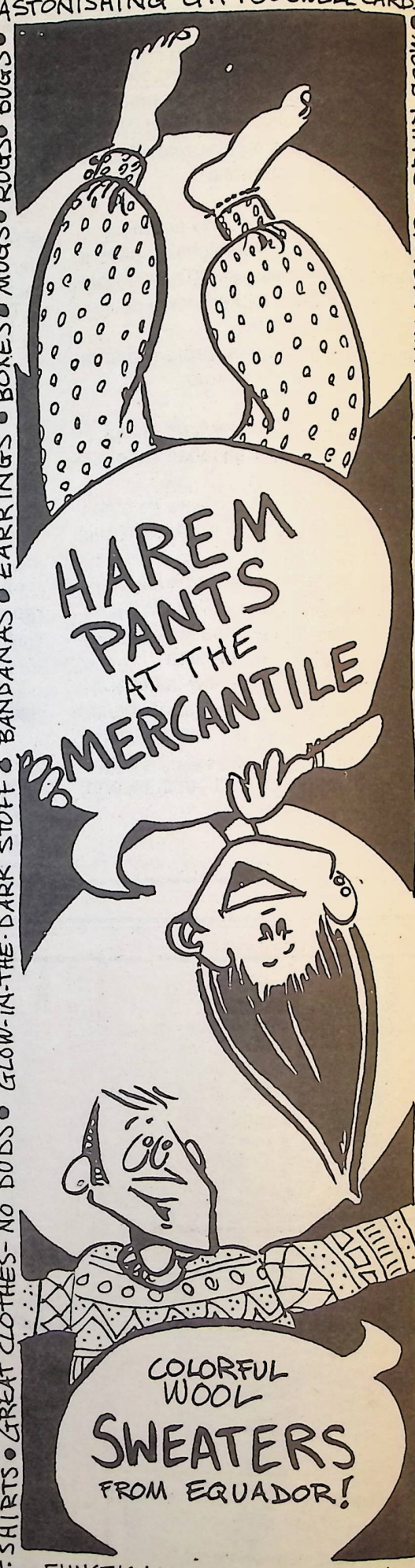

FUNCTIONAL, FUN, OR FANCY CLOTHES OF COTTON, RAYON, SILK

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JOE BOB BRIGGS

I have a friend named Tom who calls himself an "international distributor of motion pictures." I'm a great admirer of his, because for the last ten years, he's made a great living selling the *worst movies in the history of the world.* He once owned rights to a movie called "Savage Water" that was two solid hours of lifeless amateur actors tubing down the Colorado River and occasionally hacking at one another with rubber knives. This movie was so boring it would clear screening rooms in the first ten minutes of the first reel. People in *comas* refused to watch this movie. But the great thing about Tom was, he found people who would actually show it in theaters. Not *American* theaters. Theaters in *Pakistan.*

"It took me five days to make the deal," Tom told me, "and the guy from Pakistan never changed his shirt for the whole five days."

Now *that* is a great salesman.

Anyhow, that's not my point. My point is that the most notorious movie Tom ever sold was called "Birds Do It," and it was two hours of documentary footage of various animals ... well ... doing it. Cows doing it, horses doing it, goats doing it, buffalo doing it, and — in the most amazing scene of the whole film — elephants doing it. You've heard of people making the sign of the twin-humped aardvark? Tom had aardvarks making the sign of the twin-humped human.

Tom would sell this movie market-to-market as an "educational film," telling theater owners they could bring school children in to see it, so their parents wouldn't have to explain the facts of life to them. If this didn't work, he'd get them to play it as a midnight movie, emphasizing the *grossness* of some of the scenes. So he would sell the film as either a G-rated family picture if it was used during the daytime, or an X-rated exploitation picture if viewed at night. And there was something about it that *was* fascinating, if Tom could get your attention long enough to force you to watch his screening copy. The elephant scene was the one that always put the sale over. The man from Pakistan bought it on the spot — a relief to Tom, since he didn't have to smell his shirt the next day.

But, unfortunately, a good thing can't last forever. There are always slimy imitators out there who will capitalize on someone else's genius. And eventually "Birds Do It" was surpassed by an even *more* explicit movie called "Dog Eat Dog." "Dog Eat Dog" was created by an Italian producer who thought that, well, if people will watch animals having sex, just *think* what they'll pay to see animals actually ... well ... *eating* each other. Like everything in the movies, what begins with sex, ends with violence. And so "Dog Eat Dog" was the first movie showing such wonders as an anaconda swallowing a squirrel, a hawk killing a lamb, a lion chasing down an antelope, a wolf killing a caribou — and not just the kill itself, but footage of the animals ripping apart each other's flesh, then eating the carcass.

This film was all but unwatchable — which made people, of course, want to watch it. It led to all kinds of "brutal nature" scenes being injected into low-budget Italian films for about ten years, and then, like all movie trends, it kind of died out. Or did it?

Last week I received an ad in the mail from Time-Life Video:

"Now, witness nature in all its terrifying splendor, in the most shocking live-action footage ever captured on video! ... Slip into a savage and untamed realm ... Where peril lurks in every encounter, and death is always on the prowl ... An eat-or-be-eaten world ... An astonishing, up-close look at the life-or-death struggle to survive!" Complete with pictures of fighting vultures, frog-eating bats, a lion killing a lion cub, and — the biggest bully of all — a killer whale killing a sea lion pup.

But that's only in the first episode of the video series. In future weeks, if I sign up, I'll eventually get to see "how a female elephant systematically singles out the largest bull in the herd as her mate."

It's the elephant scene from "Birds Do It"!

Tom! They put "Birds Do It" with "Dog Eat Dog," and it's being sold by one of the largest corporations in the world!

You're a pioneer, my man. A visionary.

• • •

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, PO Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is always open: 214-368-2310.

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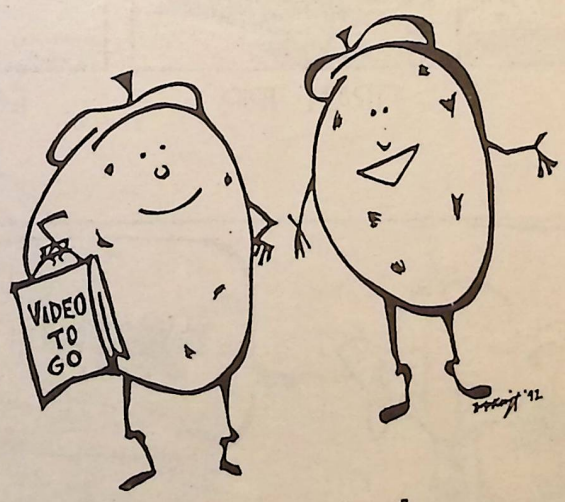

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HE'S B-A-A-A-C-K

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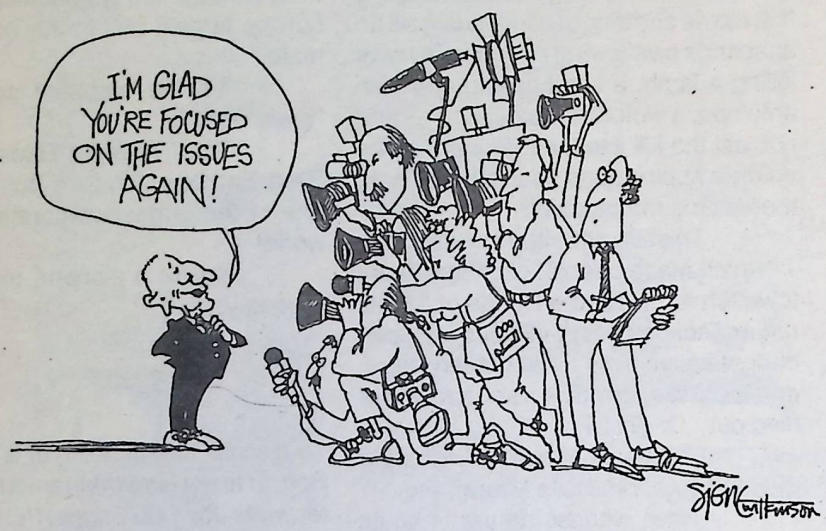
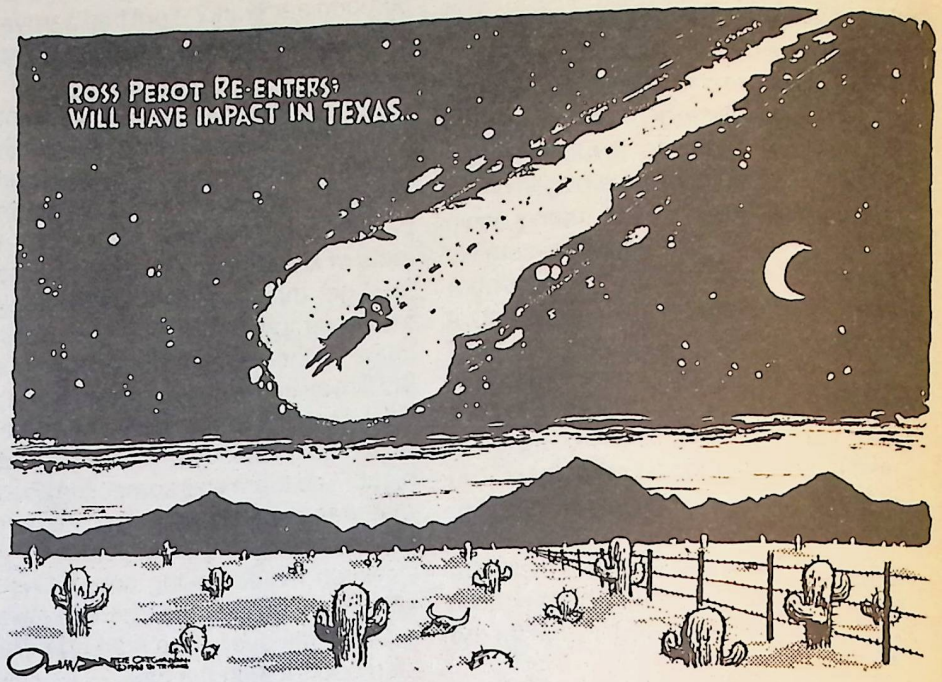
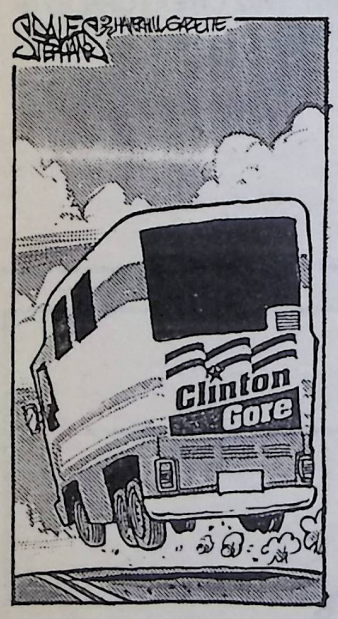
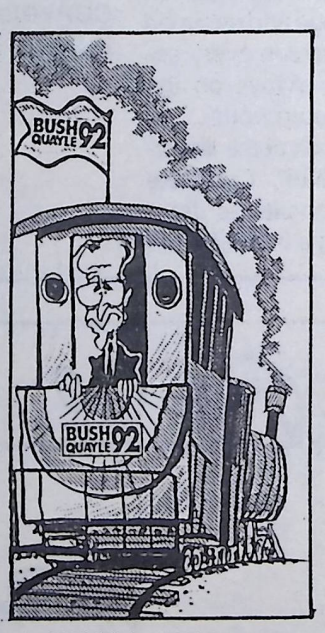


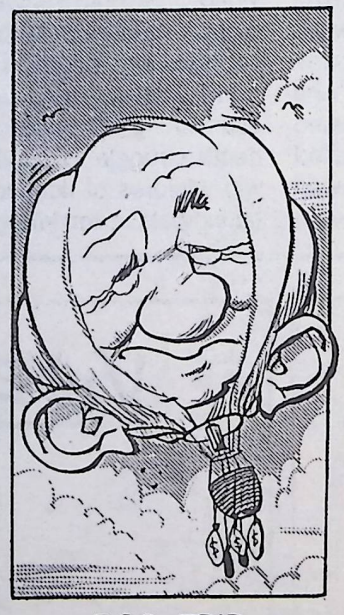




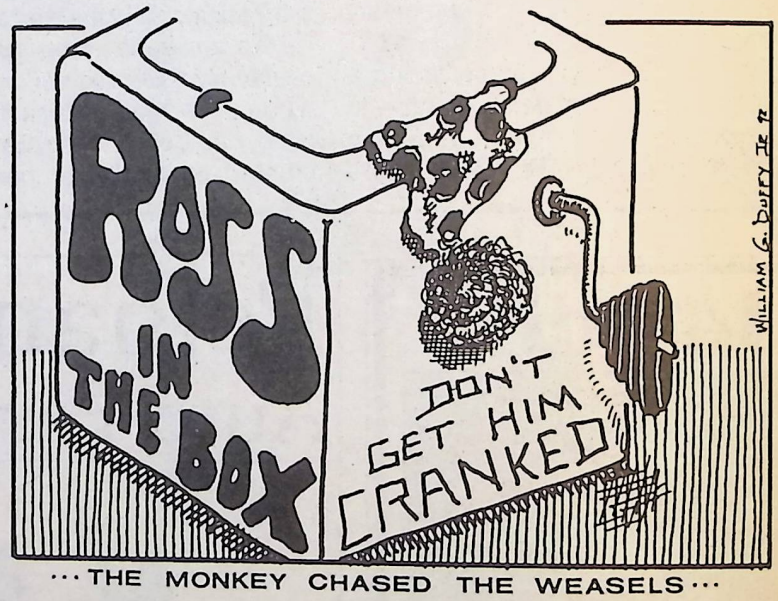
BUS TRIP



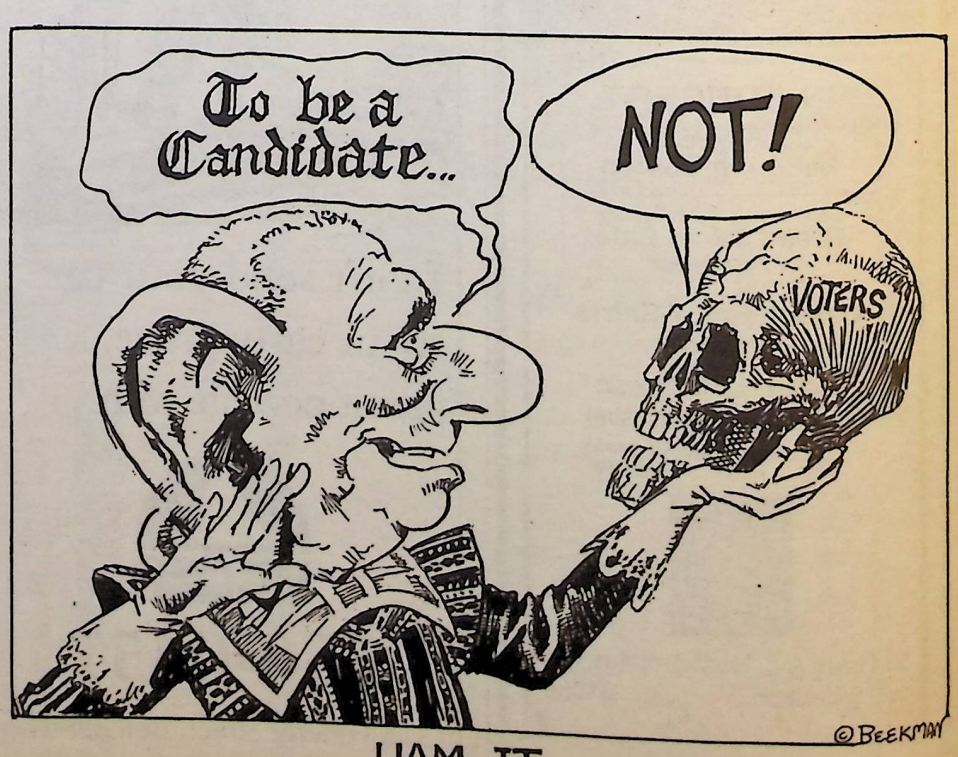
TRAIN TRIP



EGO TRIP



...THE MONKEY CHASED THE WEASELS...



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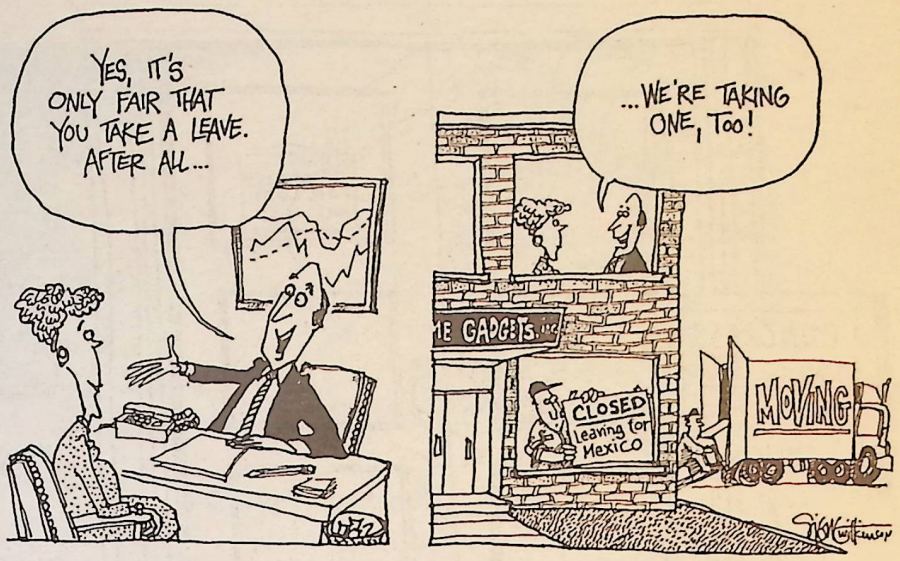

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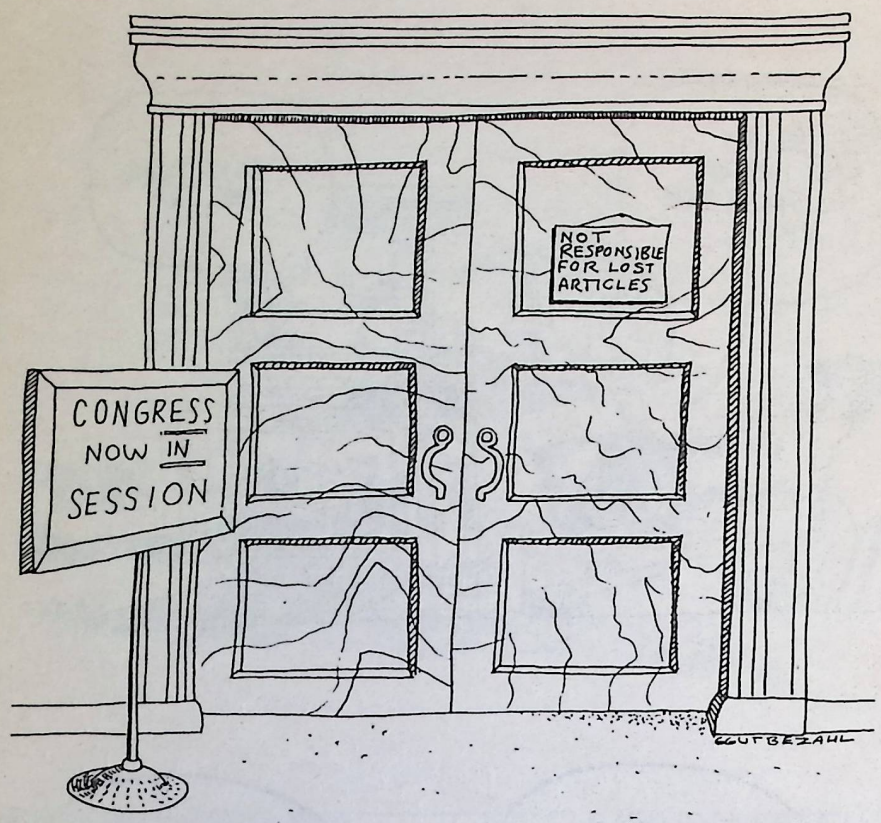
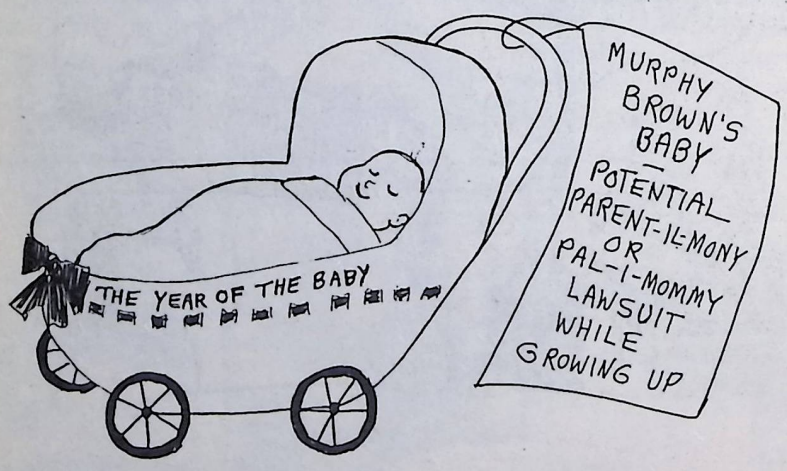
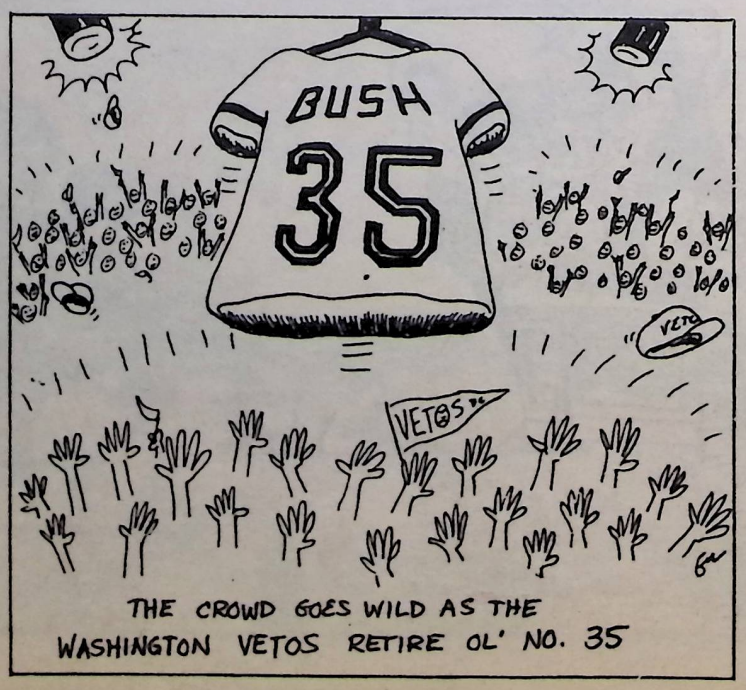


THE RIGHT SIDE



LAWYERS CAN NOW STOP CHASING AMBULANCES - AND START CHASING BABY BUGGIES -

F. JAMES CORWIN '92



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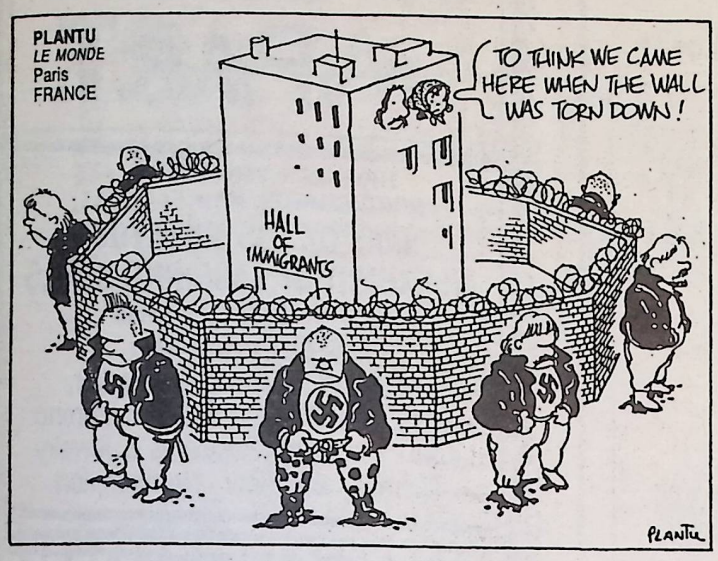
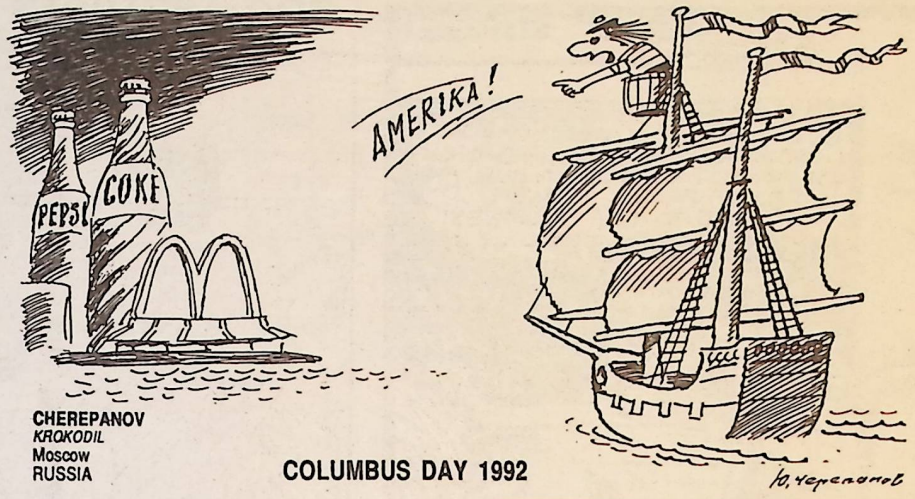


PLANTU
LE MONDE
Paris
FRANCE



CHEREPANOV
KROKODIL
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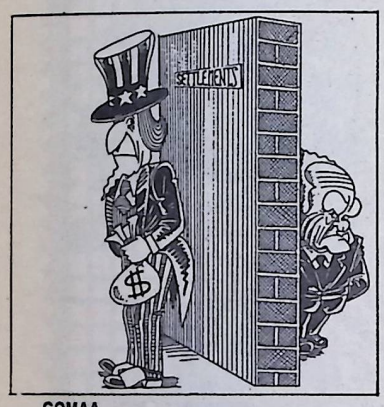
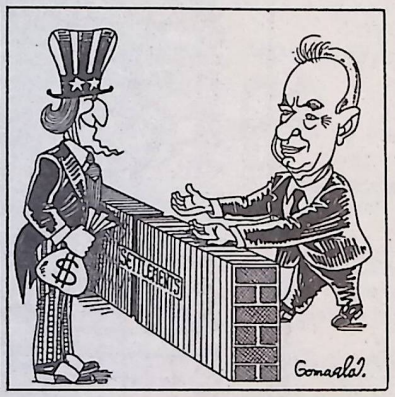
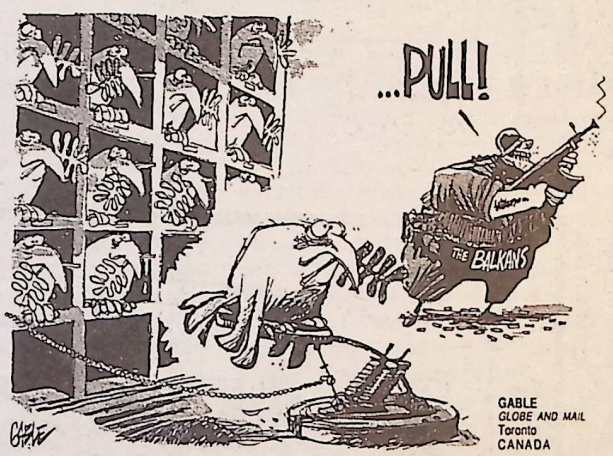
COLUMBUS DAY 1992





GOMAA
AL AHRAM WEEKLY
Cairo
EGYPT



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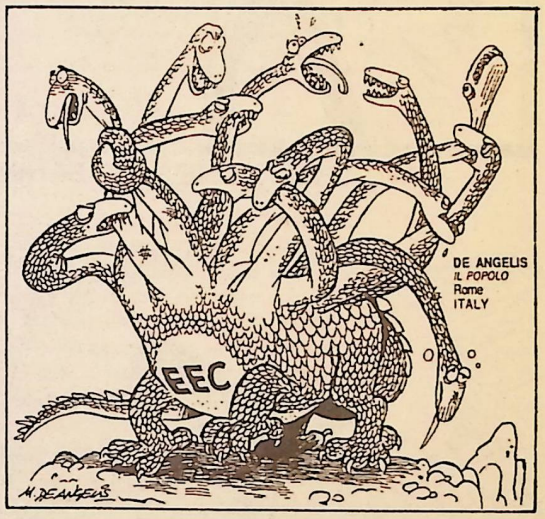
CANADA



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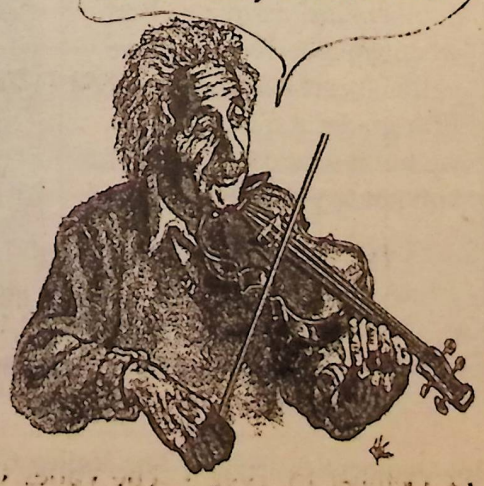
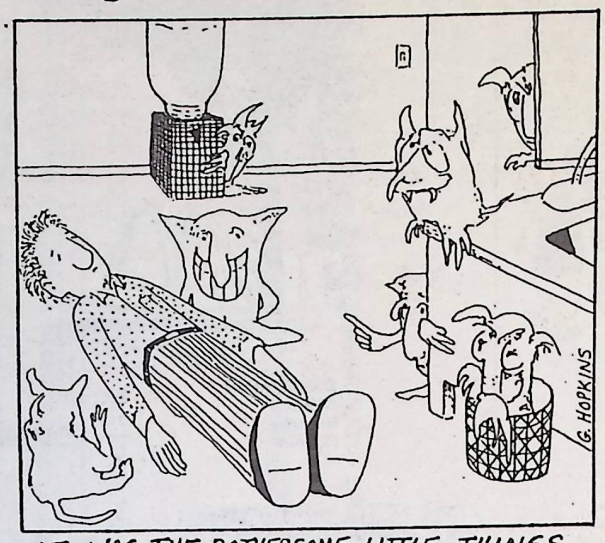


ROCK & ROLL BABYLON by Tom Sturm

MICHAEL IS ONE STEP BEHIND

dog feathers by Giles Hopkins

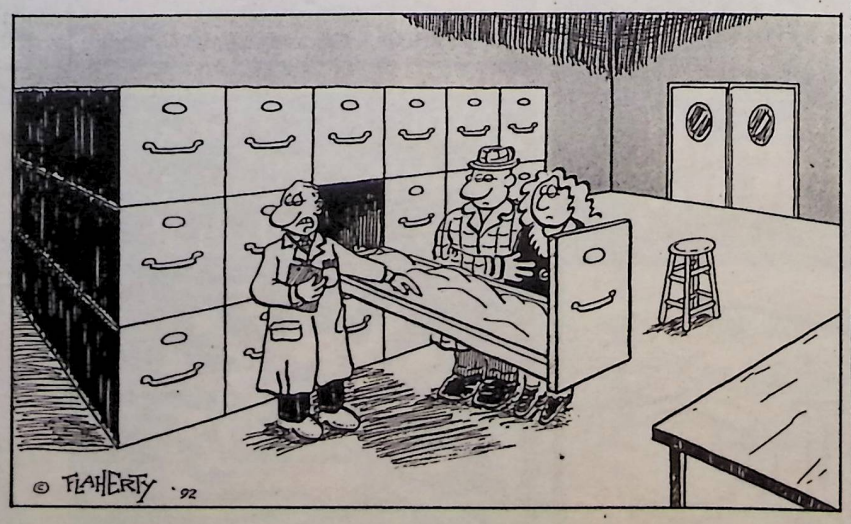


IT WAS THE BOTHERSOME LITTLE THINGS ABOUT HIS JOB THAT FINALLY GOT TO PHIL.

Axl stumbles on the St. Louis Mayoral campaign trail.

⇧

(above) Generally we don't publish kids' cartoons. But when we received the above political cartoon from Amherst fifth-grader Rafael Anzovin, we felt it would be a crime for him not to get into print.



"AND WHICH ONE OF MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES HELPED HIMSELF VERY NICELY TO THE TWO FROSTED JELLY DOUGHNUTS I HAD STASHED RIGHT HERE WITH THE STIFF?!"

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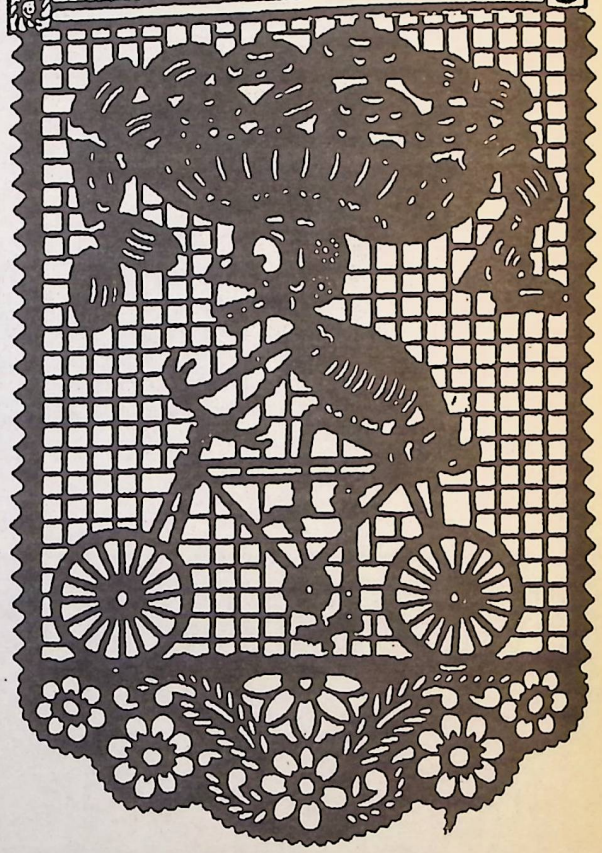

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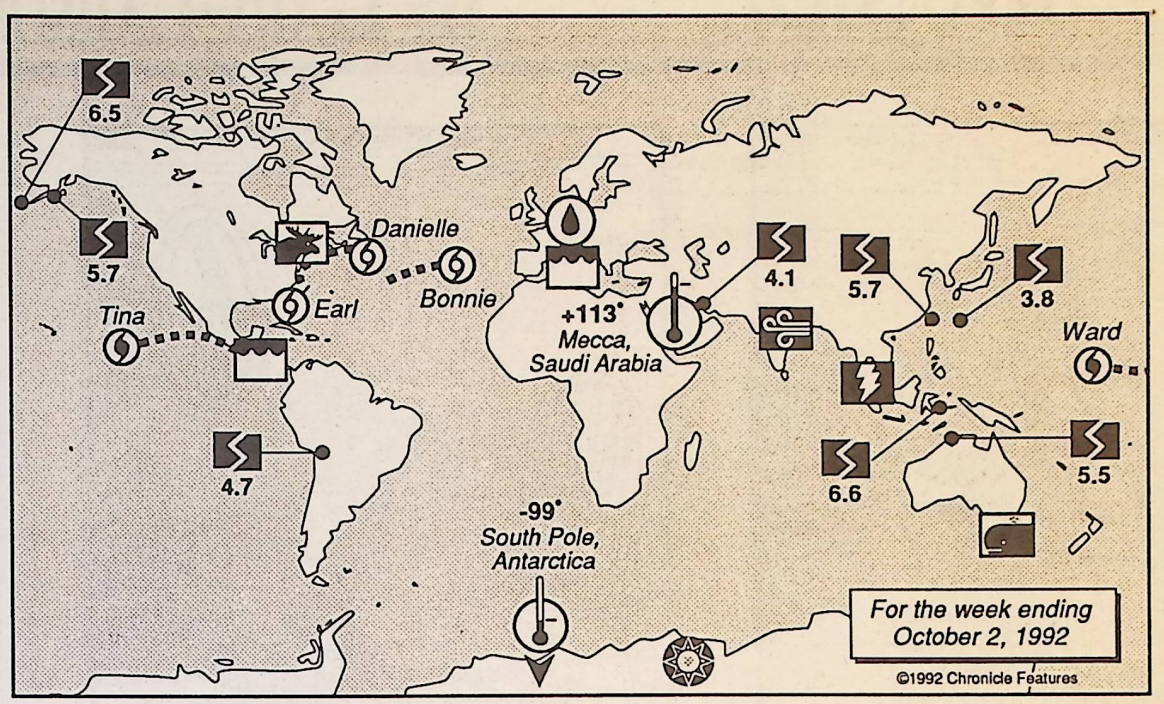
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman



Floods

Rain-swept flooding continued into a second week across northern Italy, southern France, and northeastern Spain. In hard-hit Genoa, torrential rains left much of the port city under several yards of water. Cars and people were swept away by the raging torrents along the northern Mediterranean.

Three days of incessant rains across Mexico and parts of Central America killed at least seven people as several rivers burst their banks. The flash flooding devastated huge tracts of farmland from Mexico's Michoacan State to El Salvador. Parts of Mexico City reported their heaviest weekly rainfall ever.

Ozone Hole

Ozone depletion over Antarctica began earlier this year and expanded at a faster rate than in 1991. The "ozone hole" has enlarged by 15 percent and is now nearly the size of the North American continent, NASA scientists announced in Washington.

Beaching

Almost 100 pilot whales died after beaching themselves on a remote stretch of Tasmania's eastern coast. Wildlife officers said that all but two of the whales had died before being discovered. They attempted to turn the survivors back to sea, but were unsuccessful.

Tropical Storms

Hurricane Tina brushed the west coast of Mexico with high winds before heading into the open waters of the Pacific. Tropical storm Danielle brought local flooding and beach erosion to New England and the Eastern Seaboard. Tropical storm Bonnie passed over the eastern Atlantic while tropical storm Earl produced rainy weather across Florida. Typhoon Ward churned the central Pacific.

Monsoon's End

The southwest monsoon is ending early across the Indian subcontinent, leaving an acute shortage of water in Bangladesh and threatening the winter paddy crops. Most of the heavy rainfall from this year's monsoon season fell over northern India and Pakistan. The worst flooding in living memory occurred there last month.

Earthquakes

Taiwan was shaken by its strongest quake of the year. Customers in downtown Taipei ran out of supermarkets and cinemas in panic. A swarm of more than 120 minor earthquakes were detected during the week beneath tiny Iriomote Island in extreme southern Japan. Earth movements were also felt in southwestern Alaska, eastern Indonesia's Ternate Island, southern Iran, along the Chile-Peru border, and near Darwin, Australia.

Ground Pollution

Austria's underground water supply, once considered among the cleanest and purest in the world, has been seriously contaminated by agricultural pollution. Experts found that 75 percent of the 12,000 wells tested in 170 cities across the east of the country contained varying amounts of chemicals. They warned that the average content of sulfate surpasses the level permitted by the state, making the water unfit to drink. Decades of fertilizer and pesticide use in major farming areas is blamed for the contamination.

Lightning Strike

A massive power failure in the west coast of peninsular Malaysia was caused by a single lightning strike that tripped the national grid. A passing electrical storm struck a junction of four power lines, causing about 15 power stations to fail.

Moose Dip

An 800-pound rogue moose with a taste for swimming pools was found trespassing across Lewiston, Maine's second largest city. Authorities first discovered the beast dipping into a pool in the south of the city, and were able to spook it back into the woods. Game wardens found him the next day in another pool across town. "I guess it was a nice swim for him," Mark Adams said as the tranquilized moose was lifted from his pool and put in a truck. Wildlife officials said that while moose prefer to live and swim in the forest, they often can be found wandering into populated areas during the fall mating season.

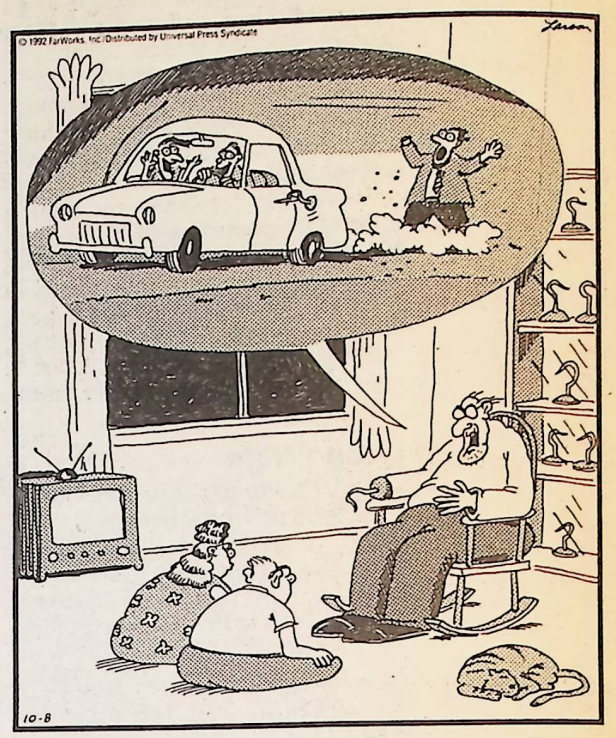
Additional Sources: *Meteo France, Mexican Meteorological Service, Japan Meteorological Agency, U.S. National Hurricane Center at Miami, U.S. Military Joint Typhoon Warning Center at Guam, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.*

(left) Andrew Foster of Northampton reads *The Valley Comic News* atop Mt. Katahdin in Maine after completing the Appalachian Trail. Andrew writes, "My brother mailed me 'The Comic News' all along the trail over five months. After reading each issue, I left them behind for other hikers to enjoy from Georgia to Maine."

THE FAR SIDE By Gary Larson

Historical note: For many years, until they became truly nasty, Vikings would plunder, loot and then egg the houses of coastal villagers.

"Tell it again, Gramps! The one about being caught in the shark frenzy off the Great Barrier Reef!"



Years later, Harold Zimmerman, the original "Hookhand" of campfire ghost stories, tells his grandchildren the Tale of the Two Evil Teen-agers.

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Egg Noodles served with an Asian-style Pesto.
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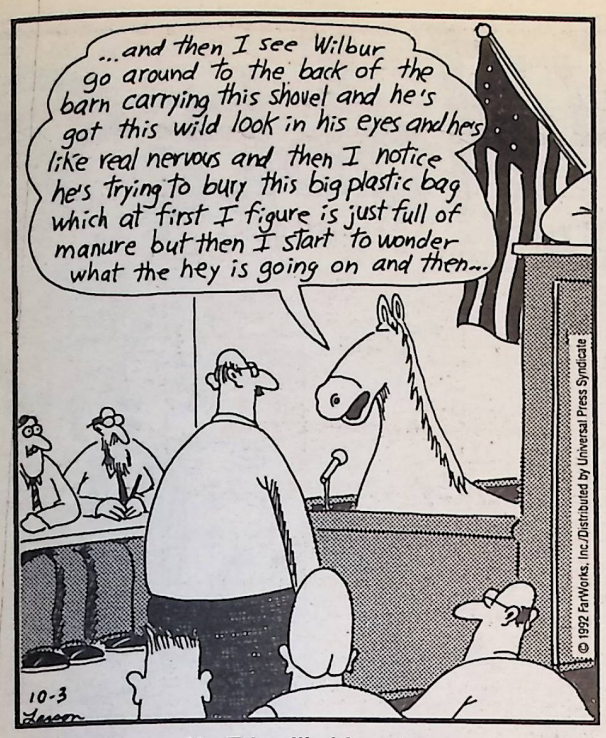
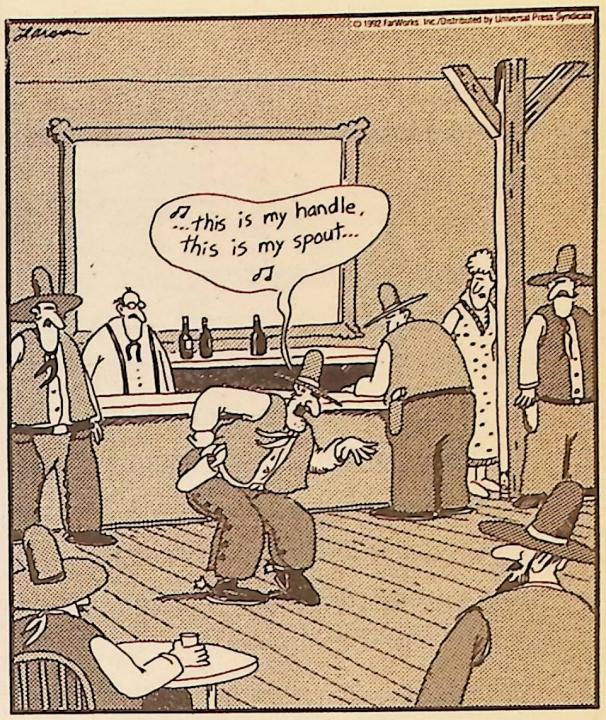


Mr. Ed spills his guts.

"Cornelius! I've been watching him! . . . Beware of the jawbone!"

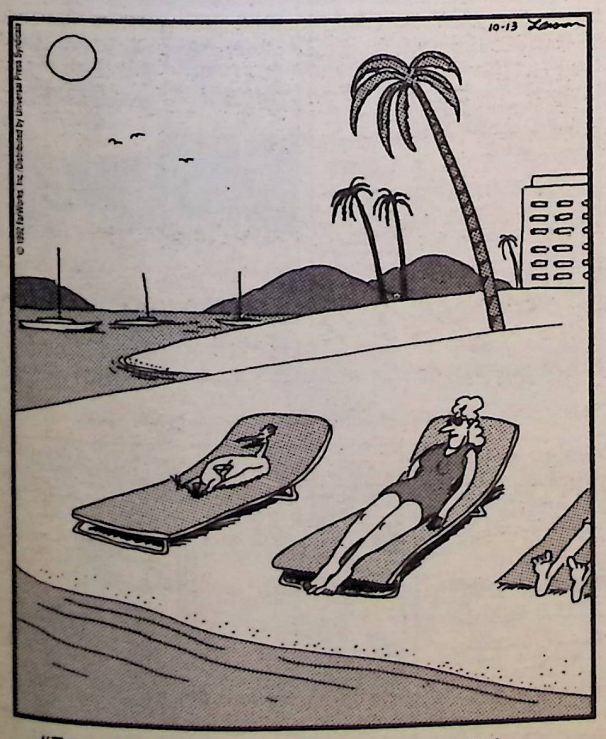


It was always a bizarre spectacle, but no one ever, *ever*, ridiculed the Teapot Kid.

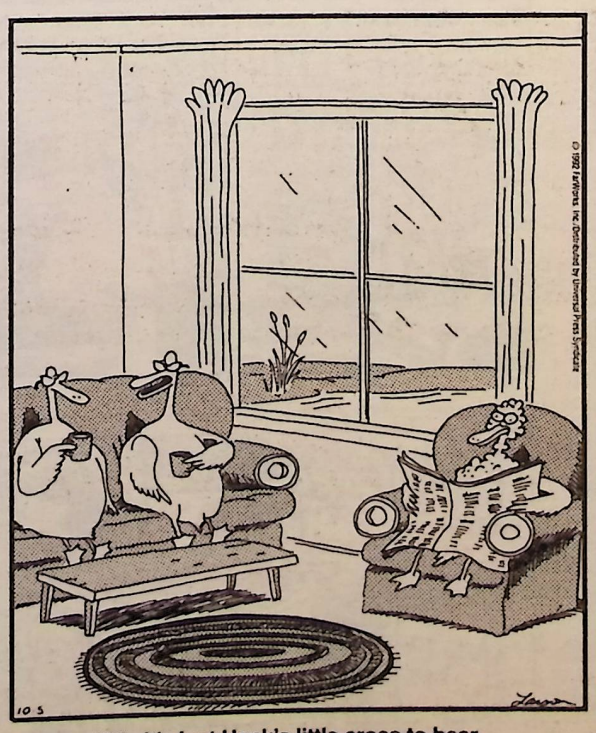
Explorers from another cartoon are captured and tortured by the savage Farsidians.

Early corsages

A big day for Jimmy



"Fools! They made me into a free-range chicken . . . and man, I never looked back."



"Oh, it's just Hank's little cross to bear — he's allergic to down and that's that."

LEOLD BY ROGER SALLOOM

People are really something.

Last night Dad took me out to dinner. The waiter started telling us how he was sure Dad was a Mohican Indian in his past life. About himself, he said he was positive he had been persecuted and burned at the stake in the 1300's.

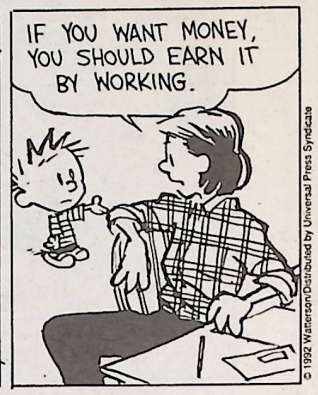
My opinion is, To a man with a hammer everything looks like a nail.

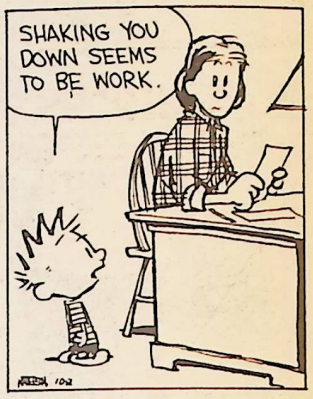
Dad left him a big $10 tip for a meal which only cost $15!

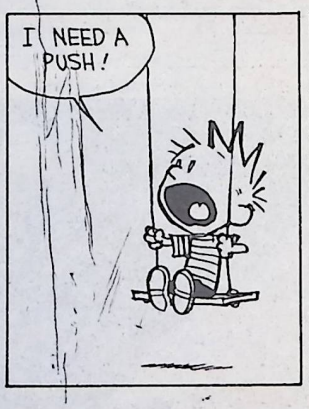
I asked Dad why such a big tip.

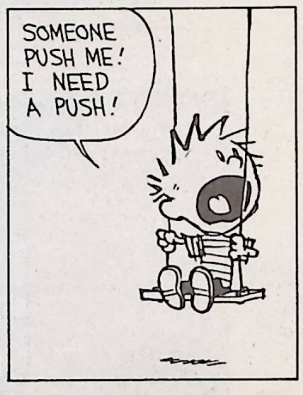
He said, "The poor guy had been burned at the stake. It was the least we could do."

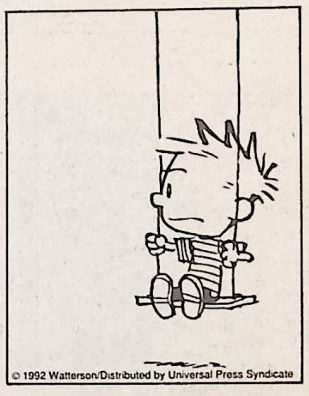
Calvin and Hobbes by Bill Watterson

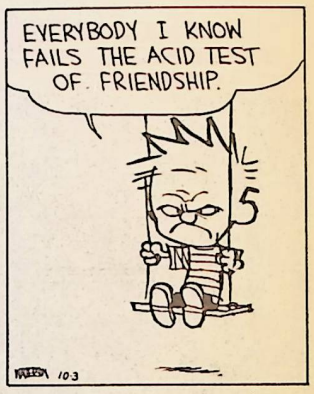


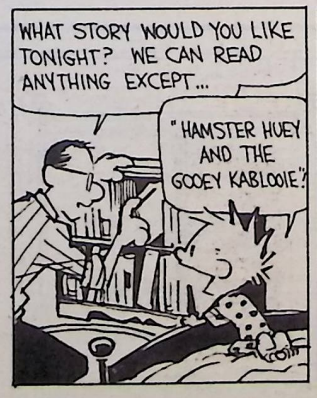


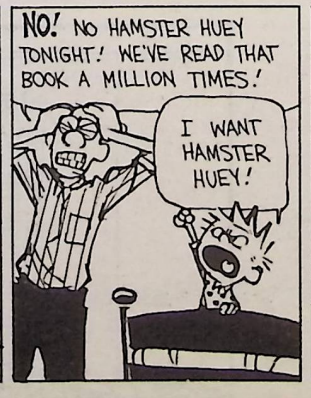


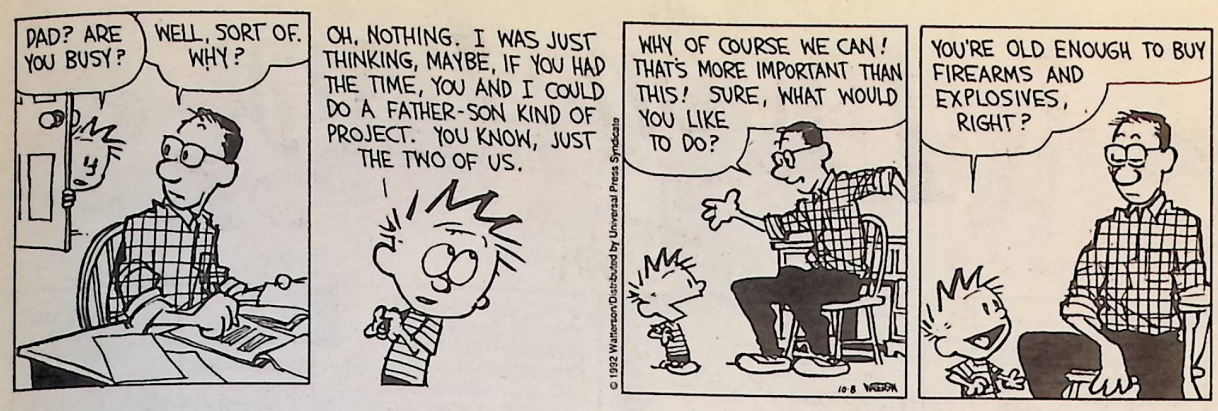


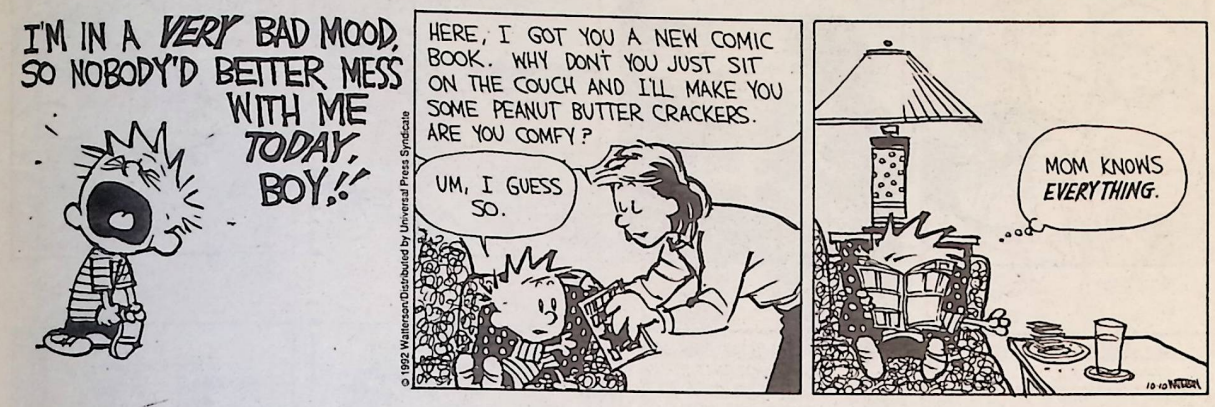


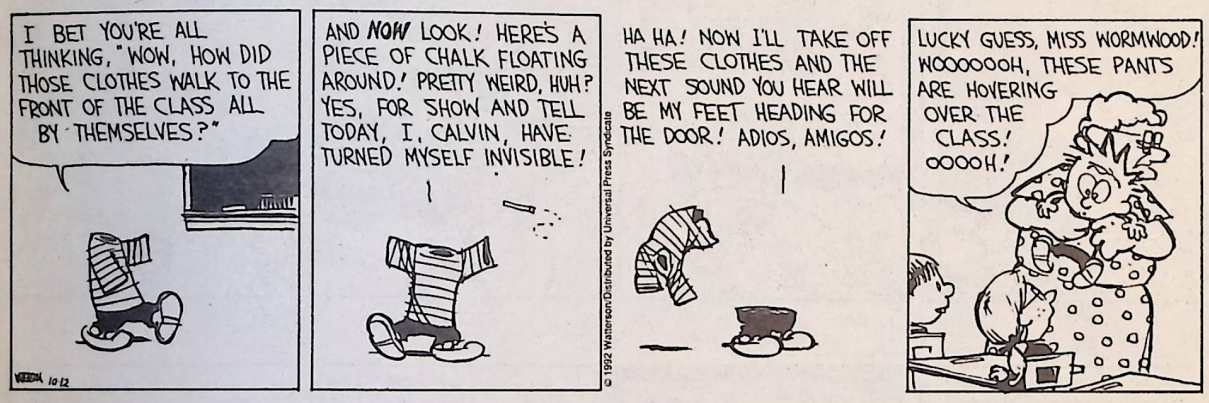


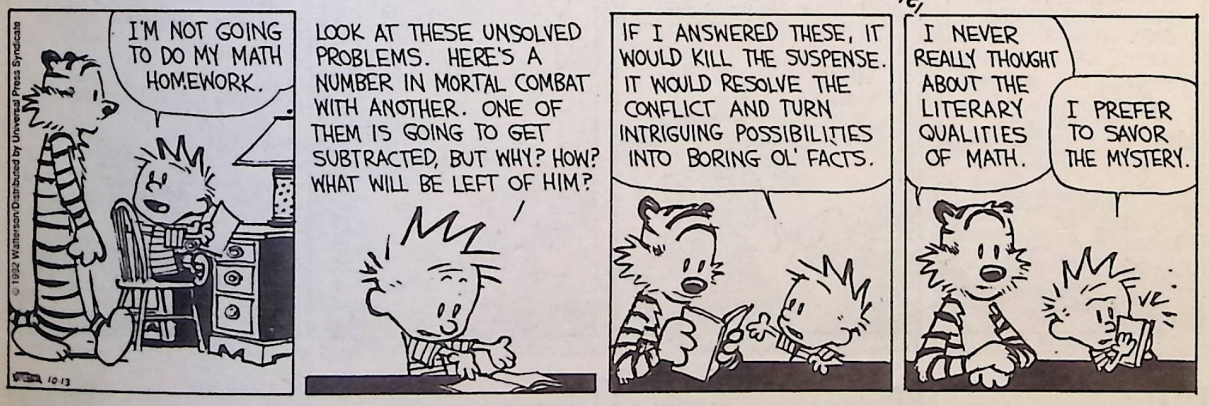


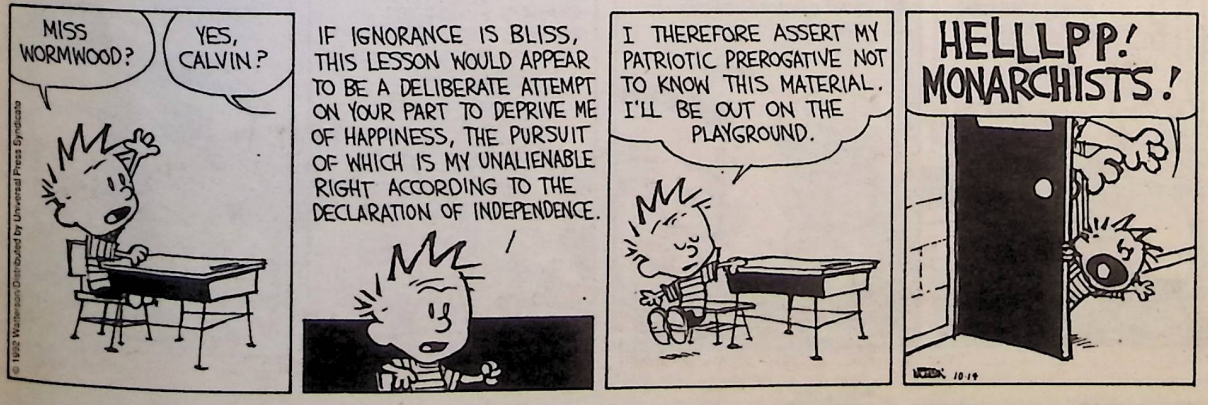


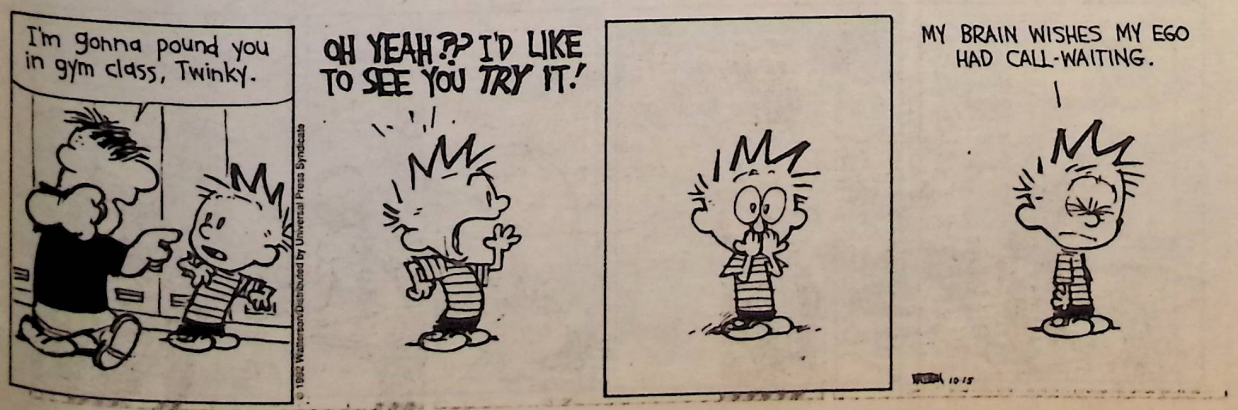


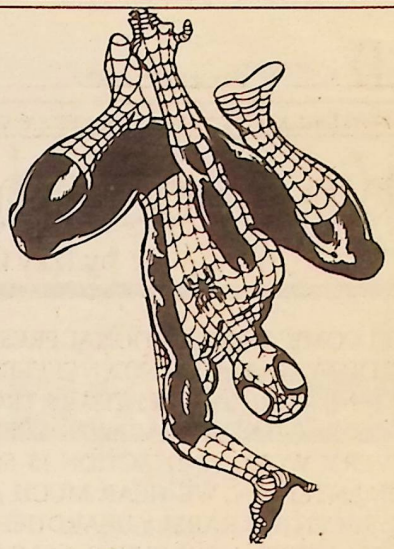












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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB. OUR SPEAKER TODAY IS A WELL-KNOWN CELEBRITY WHOSE CAREER SPANS MORE THAN 25 YEARS. FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, SHE HAS BECOME A HOUSEHOLD NAME WHOSE EVERY WORD AND ACTION IS SCRUTINIZED AND COMMENTED ON. WE HEAR MUCH ABOUT HER, BUT UNTIL RECENTLY, RARELY HEARD HER COMMENTS IN HER OWN VOICE. NOW THOSE COMMENTS HAVE CREATED NEW CONTROVERSIES. TO ANSWER HER CRITICS AND ENCOURAGE HER SUPPORTERS, SHE HAS DECIDED TO SPEAK OUT. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR HONORED GUEST - BARBIE DOLL.

Thank you. The hardest thing for me in being cast as a role model is not being accepted for what I am. Ever since I became available, I've been put down either for what I am or what I'm supposed to be. I've been attacked for being blond, for having breasts, for liking clothes, for having an airhead like Ken for a boyfriend. I'm damned for being anatomically incorrect and I'd be damned if I were anatomically correct. Listen folks, I'm merely a doll. If you cut me, won't I bleed just like you? No. I'm made of plastic and synthetic fibers like most other dolls. When I was first created, I got a great kick out of being a little girl's plaything; I sparked her imagination and served as a vehicle for creativity. I was doing what I was meant to do. As a toy, I knew I would be used, loved, and then broken, misplaced or discarded. I didn't especially like it, but that was my fate and I accepted it.

All of a sudden, I became a collectible. People began pulling me out of attic trunks or soggy cardboard boxes and selling me to speculators who had no interest in me except as a commodity. To them, I was only a potentially appreciable investment. How do you think it feels when folks who buy me won't even take me out of the box? I am NOT a collectible. I am a doll. I might as well be manufactured by the Franklin Mint or that company that paints scenes from movies onto plates.

Kids don't play with me now because I might break and threaten their parents' investment. Jeez, I wasn't supposed to be an annuity for college. I was supposed to be a TOY. Sometimes I feel like the girl in the bubble, the one with the disease that won't let her interact with the world at large so she can only look at life through plastic.

Recently, I've taken a lot of flak for admitting that math class is tough for me. People got so upset, claiming my statement reinforces a stereotype that females and math do not get along due to some gender thing. Well, math IS hard for me. So what? I know a lot of guys who couldn't do math if their testosterone-driven lives depended on it. Do you really think if Barbie says Calculus is a breeze, some 7 year old girl is going to start dreaming about MIT? Hell, I've got a lot of strengths. I'm an artist - a creative person, excellent with color, line and texture. I'm an automotive whiz because, lord knows, I've driven and ridden in many of them. When Ken's Corvette breaks down in the middle of nowhere, I'm the one who gets under the car and fixes the damn thing. He's hopeless around mechanical things. Ken can't unscrew a light bulb without mumbling, "lefty loosey, righty tighty." And HE'S great in math.

In closing, I want to remind you the "year of the woman" is a result of the growing realization that women do things differently than men. At last, we may have our chance to help repair some of society's ills. What seems to be missing is the understanding that we are going to make mistakes. Give us time. Remember, men have had since the pre-dawn of civilization to mess things up. You can't expect us to fix it all during a commercial.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

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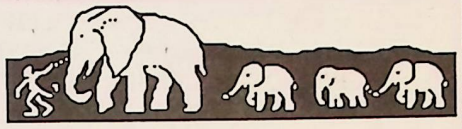

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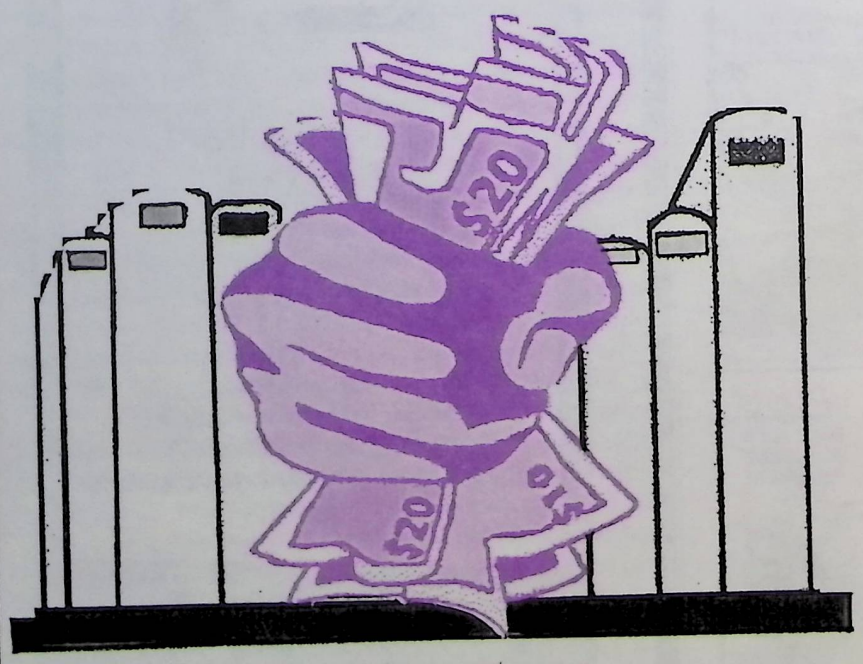

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